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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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To Tobacco States

Lespedeza-Tobacco Rotation Encourages Root Diseases

Two important reasons why tobacco may grow poorly when it follows a crop of lespedeza have been uncovered in studies carried out in Tennessee by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station.

Field tests showed that when black root rot is present in the soil, susceptible tobacco suffers severely from root rot disease if the tobacco has been preceded by a crop of lespedeza. On the other hand, tobacco grown after small grains was relatively free from black root rot.

Lespedeza was also found to favor the development of nematode root knot on tobacco crops which follow it.

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In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

Proper Selection of Perennials Will Protect Soil and Provide Year-Round Grazing

A careful selection of perennial plants together with some summer and winter annuals will protect the land from erosion and provide grazing during most of the year in ________________ (State), says ________________________ (State authority).

Some factors to be considered in planning a good grazing system, according to Mr. ___________________ are: (1) The capability of the land; (2) the seasons for which grazing is needed; (3) the kind of livestock on the farm; (4) how the grazing system can be worked into the crop rotations on the farm; and (5) the effect of grazing on the growth of the root systems which support the plants.

Mr. _______________ lists the most useful perennials for the Southeast as coastal Bermuda grass, common Bermuda grass, tall fescue, Dallis grass, Bahia grass, orchard grass, alfalfa, kudzu, sericea, Ladina and other white clovers.

Soils in _________________ (State) vary widely in their capabilities for growing forage crops, according to ____________________. Therefore plants should be selected carefully both for adaptation to the soil in question and to provide grazing during the part of the year in which it is needed. Successful management calls for sufficient acreage of pasture to provide ample forage without damaging the plants, and sufficient fertilization to provide maximum roughage from the plants grown.

It is suggested that farmers ask their county agricultural agents for help in choosing the best forage plants for their particular soil and for suggestions concerning the best combinations and other management practices.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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In All States

Cold Weather Offers Opportunities for Rat Control

Greater need for food and shelter during the wintertime makes man's familiar enemy, the rat, more vulnerable to control measures taken at this time of year.

Ratproofing of buildings and removal of trash piles or other possible shelters will leave the rats literally "out in the cold," says ____________________ (local authority). Then, if food supplies are eliminated, there will be nothing for Mr. Rat to wait around for.

To complete the job, it's a good idea to eliminate the rats as well, adds ________________________. Otherwise they will simply migrate to another spot in the neighborhood. There are numerous effective poisons available for this purpose, among which the anticoagulants such as warfarin and pival are proving very useful.

Anticoagulant poisons are readily acceptable to rats. This, plus the fact that they can be handled with a fair degree of safety and ease, is making them popular as a tool for rodent control. Like all poisonous substances, however, these chemicals must be kept out of reach of domestic animals and children. Anticoagulants reduce the ability of the blood to coagulate normally, and intake of large quantities over a prolonged period would induce death by internal bleeding.

Warfarin and pival can be purchased in prepared baits or bought in a powder form to be mixed with yellow corn meal or equal parts of yellow corn meal and rolled oats, at a rate of one part of the chemical concentrate to 19 parts bait. Up to 5 percent sugar may be added to improve acceptability to roof rats. To be effective the poison must be consumed by rats or mice on several successive days. Therefore, Mr. __________________ suggests that other food which may compete with the bait should be removed, insofar as possible.

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A safe and protected bait feeding station can be formed by leaning a 1- by 8- or 1- by 10-inch board about 6 feet long against a wall and fastening it securely in place. The bait can be placed in the station in shallow trays not easily reached from either end of the board.

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In All States

Eggs Packed Large End up Maintain Better Grading Quality

Eggs should always be packed with their large ends up because this helps to maintain their best grading quality, says ____________________. Recent research carried out at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture showed substantial differences in grade yields between eggs packed small end up and eggs packed large end up, according to ____________________.

The interior quality of eggs, as determined in candling, is an important factor in wholesale grading. To grade "A" or better, an egg must have a well-centered yolk. In eggs packed small end up, the yolk has a tendency to rise, ____________________ explains, causing the egg to grade lower when it is candled. In the Pennsylvania tests, 90 percent of eggs packed large end up graded "A" or better, while more than 75 percent of those packed small end up graded "B" or lower.

Eggs sold in quantity usually bring a better price if they grade "A" or better.

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In All States

January Gains in Farm Prices Raised the Parity Ratio to 92

The overall level of prices received by farmers in January was 2 percent higher than the December level, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Prices paid by farmers also rose somewhat between December 15 and January 15, but greater gains in prices received brought the parity ratio up to 92, one point over the December level.

Largest gains in January were in prices received for meat animals, where seasonally reduced marketings and slaughter brought about an average 8 percent price increase. Commercial vegetables, except carrots, also showed decided price gains.

On the other hand, prices of dairy products, fruit, cotton, poultry, and eggs showed declines during the period December 15 to January 15. However, the higher general level of farm prices shows that these declines were more than offset by gains for other products.

Higher prices for feed and feeder livestock contributed most to the January upturn in prices paid for commodities used for farm production. Higher prices for coffee, pork, lard, and lettuce were outstanding among the items which spelled a slightly higher level of prices paid by farmers for food. Also, higher prices for women's and girls' clothing more than offset declines in men's and boys' clothing purchased by farm families during the month.

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Special to Extension Editors

In States East of Mississippi

Soil Covers Reduce Decay in Timbers of Basementless Buildings

Roll roofing, or other effective moisture barrier, laid on the soil beneath a basementless building, has proved to be a cheap, effective, and practical means of reducing crawl-space dampness, which frequently leads to decay of subfloor timbers. This was shown by extensive experiments conducted over the past 11 years by forest pathologists, according to the Forest Service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to determine conditions of basementless buildings, many of which were built with insufficient protection against decay fungi.

The chief factor leading to decay of subfloor timbers was found to be continuous high relative humidity (75 percent or over) in the crawl space. In some cases this condition was improved by providing better ventilation or by eliminating sources of water under the buildings through better grading, by installing gutters or downspouts, or by other measures. But where the chief source of moisture was seepage water that could not readily be controlled, installation of a soil cover proved to be a practical way of lowering the humidity to a safe level.

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Effective soil covers include a single layer of 30 - 110 pound roll roofing, a double layer of 15 pound roll roofing, 15 pound asphalt-saturated felt, laminated reinforced asphalt-saturated papers, and unmounted aluminum foils. A single layer of 15 pound roll roofing or a water emulsion of asphalt sprayed on the soil proved effective.

In laying the soil cover, scientists say it is not necessary to level the soil or overlap the cover strips. Nor is it necessary to place the cover flush against the foundation or secure a tight fit around piers.

(OVER)

Leaving approximately ½ inch between strips will allow escape of any free water that might temporarily accumulate above the cover after a heavy rain.

The soil cover method has been effective in controlling the more common types of fungus wood decay in basementless houses in the eastern United States. It does not help to control termites, which call for chemical poisoning, the specialists point out. Nor is it entirley satisfactory in houses infected with "dry-rot" fungus, only rarely encountered.

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In All States

New Grain Storage Capacity of __________ Bushels To Be Built in __________

Under its occupancy guarantee program announced last August, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has approved applications for guaranteed occupancy on new grain storage facilities sufficient to provide nearly 300 million bushels additional storage capacity. Applications amounting to ____________ bushels capacity have been approved for the ____________ area, and of this total ______________ bushels new storage capacity is approved for location in ________________.
(State)

The occupancy guarantee program, designed to encourage the building of additional commercial storage facilities, provides for payments to warehousemen in the event that occupancy of their new structures should fall below specified levels during a period of 5 or 6 years after their completion. Approval was based upon the need for additional storage space at locations where it is essential to have adequate facilities for the storage of grain and oilseeds. Acceptable final plans and specifications must be submitted before occupancy contracts are signed.

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The applications approved were received by State and County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees before last September 30, the deadline date. Cancellations and withdrawals are expected to reduce the total new facilities actually built to around 200 million bushels capacity.

Note to Editors: Figures for your area and State are listed on the reverse side so that you will have them when you check with the State ASC chairman.

(OVER)

STORAGE OCCUPANCY GUARANTEE PROGRAM
(Through January 20, 1954)

Area and State	Applications approved (Capacity)
Chicago	
Illinois	24,045,340
Indiana	4,502,500
Iowa	19,280,700
Michigan	4,997,000
Ohio	9,491,500
Kentucky	1,600,000
New York	2,978,600
Pennsylvania	903,200
Delaware	366,000
Virginia	1,380,000
Total	69,544,840
Dallas	
Texas	25,435,151
Oklahoma	31,317,184
Arkansas	1,490,760
Mississippi	200,000
Alabama	100,000
Tennessee	4,013,000
Georgia	860,000
North Carolina	1,220,000
South Carolina	959,000
Total	65,595,095

Area and State	Applications approved (Capacity)
Kansas City	
Kansas	67,214,404
Nebraska	28,662,145
Colorado	6,941,708
Missouri	10,530,000
Total	113,348,257
Minneapolis	
Minnesota	17,253,896
North Dakota	1,050,000
South Dakota	2,260,000
Montana	405,000
Wisconsin	6,701,172
Total	27,670,068
Portland	
Oregon	1,858,000
Washington	6,587,300
Idaho	595,000
California	500,000
Arizona	1,796,500
Utah	315,000
Total	11,651,800

GRAND TOTAL 287,810,060

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In All States

Food Supplies Good This Year: Less Meat but More Poultry and Dairy Products

Supplies of food for the first half of 1954 are generally high, according to the U S. Department of Agriculture, but there are some significant changes compared with 1953 supplies in certain items.

Somewhat less meat, fish products, lard, and fresh vegetables will be available, but increases are likely for chicken, eggs, manufactured dairy products, and shortening. Also, more fresh and processed fruit, canned vegetables, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes, are on hand now than there were a year ago.

Hog slaughter this spring will be down considerably from last year, and fewer cattle and sheep were being grain-fed on January 1. Meat production is expected to rise in the last half of the year, however, coming close to the heavy output last year, and including more pork.

The Department of Agriculture expects food consumption per person in 1954 to be at about the same rate as in 1953. With demand continuing strong, retail food prices probably will average close to the 1953 level.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In All States

U. S. Experts Study Farm Markets Abroad

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that it is sending an increasing number of trade and commodity specialists to foreign market areas to report on trade problems and trade opportunities, and to assist in the lowering or elimination of barriers to United States agricultural shipments.

This is part of a developing program to promote exports of farm products and is in line with Secretary of Agriculture Benson's recent statement that there is need to "smooth the diplomatic paths over which our exports move." Actual selling of farm products abroad will continue in private hands, but it will be the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to help private producers and marketers to increase their foreign sales wherever, and however, it can.

Commodity marketing specialists are now conducting marketing studies in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Their reports are expected to be useful in promoting sales of fats and oils, tobacco, cotton, wheat, rice, fruits, and other farm commodities.

There already has been an upturn in United States agricultural shipments abroad, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service, since the 31 percent drop in farm exports which occurred during 1952 and the first half of 1953. In November 1953 farm exports amounted to $280 million, the highest value in any month since December 1952 and three percent over November 1952.

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Note to Editor: For localization purposes, you may be able to use a name from the following list of commodity marketing specialists who are now, or recently have been, abroad on this program.

Volorous H. Hougen, conducting fats and oils marketing study in Africa. Formerly of Missoula, Mont., Spokane, Wash., Lincoln, Nebr., and Cedar Falls, Iowa, Native of Northwood, Iowa.

J. Henry Burke, recently returned from citrus marketing study in Europe. Formerly of Berkeley, and present home, Rivera, Calif. Native of Mendocino County, Calif.

George W. Thomas, Jr., conducting tobacco marketing study in Europe and Asia. Native of Roxboro, N. C.

Carl C. Campbell, conducting cotton marketing study in Japan. Formerly of Raleigh, Durham and Asheville, N. C., and Spring Lake, N.J. Native of Asheville, N. C.

Dexter V. Rivenburgh, recently returned from rice marketing study in the Far East. Formerly of Ithaca, Binghamton, Catskill, and Hudson, N. Y.; New Haven, Conn. and Springfield, Mass. Native of Chatham, N. Y.

Francis H. Whitaker, recently returned from cotton marketing study in Europe. Formerly of Blytheville, Newport, and Little Rock, Ark., and Winnsboro, La. Native of Whitaker, Miss.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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East of the Mississippi, plus California,
Oregon, and Washington

USDA Leaflet Tells How To Keep Farm Tile Drains Working

"Keep Your Tile Drains Working" is the title of a leaflet recently issued by the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Contained in it are numerous pointers on how to detect, locate, and repair stoppages in farm drainage systems, and how to plan new ones so as to avoid future trouble.

Tile drains that are properly installed need only slight attention to keep them working, according to ________________________.
SCS or local authority
But some lines do fail, and usually the failure could have been prevented by regular, easy care.

One of the worst mistakes in laying a tile drainage system, says ____________________, is failure to keep a map showing location, size, and grade of the lines. Such a map is invaluable for maintenance purposes and for planning additional lines, and it also furnishes important information for both the buyer and the seller when a farm changes hands.

For farmers who have a tile drainage system but no map, the SCS leaflet gives helpful suggestions about how to develop a map for an existing system. Single copies of Keep Your Tile Drains Working, Leaflet No. 347, can be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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In--
Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, South Carolina,
Texas, and West Virginia

New Peach Variety Is Resistant to Bacterial Spot

Peach orchardists who have had trouble with bacterial spot will be interested in Ranger, a new peach variety that is relatively resistant to the disease.

Ranger introduced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1952, is a yellow freestone, almost round, with medium-firm flesh of good flavor It ripens about the same time as Golden Jubilee, or approximately 3 weeks earlier than Elberta. It has a high chilling requirement and should not be planted south of the Elberta region.

This new peach is not completely immune to bacterial spot, the USDA scientists report, but it is as resistant as such white-fleshed varieties as Hiley and Raritan Rose and more resistant than other yellow-fleshed varieties.

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In Arkansas, Missouri, and All States east of the Mississippi
except Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Halehaven and Triogen Peaches Will Stand More Nitrogen Fertilizer

Halehaven and Triogen, two new, highly colored peach varieties, can safely be fertilized with larger amounts of nitrogen than are recommended for other peach varieties, according to word from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Research carried out at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's orchards at Beltsville, Md., has shown that more nitrogen can be applied to these two varieties for better growth and yield, and it can be applied later in the season--even as late as June 1 at Beltsville. The fruit of other less highly colored peach varieties tends to lose color and attractiveness when the trees receive heavy applications of nitrate fertilizers.

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In States East of the Mississippi

For release March 4, p. m.

Forest Water Studies Reveal Need for Natural Cover on Steep Hillsides

Results of 20 years of forest water studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture have uncovered some important principles for soil and water conservation. The studies were carried out at the Forest Service's Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory located in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina, but the results are applicable to some areas in ____________________.
(State)

Foresters at the laboratory have measured and studied the flow of water from parts of the forest which they logged, grazed, and cleared for farming, using methods typical of a large part of the southern Appalachian area. Comparing results with water flow from adjacent areas maintained under natural forest conditions, they found:

(1) Logging of merchantable timber without regard to good forestry practices, and construction of logging roads without regard to drainage, increased runoff of water and caused soil erosion. Streams filled with silt and sediment, which affected the quality of the water for miles downstream.

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(2) Steep hillside farming was found unprofitable and harmful on acres cleared of timber. At the end of 5 years, corn planted on such land did not pay for the seed; pasture made from the same type land furnished little or no grazing; and from both areas tons of soil washed off the slope after each rain.

(3) Grazing of forests, as commonly practiced throughout the mountain country of the Southeast, damaged young trees beyond recovery and retarded the growth of large trees because the soil around them became too compact to absorb water. After 6 years there were no forest grasses or legumes left for grazing.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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Special to Extension Editors

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East of the Mississippi plus Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas,
Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas

Virus-Free Strawberry Plants Available This Year

Virus-free strawberry plants, appearing on the market for the first time this spring, are an excellent buy, according to ____________________ (State authority). These plants will survive winters better, are more vigorous, and will produce more runners, runner plants, and fruit than infected plants of the same variety, he explains.

Eastern nurserymen have been building up virus-free stocks of the following varieties for sale this year: Albritton, Blakemore, Catskill, Howard 17 (Premier), Klondike, Massey, Sparkle, Tennessean, Tennessee Beauty, and Tennessee Skipper. Virus-free stocks of additional varieties will be available later.

Virus infection is practically universal among strawberry plants except in these specially propagated stocks, ____________________ says. To keep virus-free stock healthy, he warns that it is essential to plant it some distance away from other strawberry plants, including wild strawberries. Insects should also be carefully controlled since they may act as carriers.

Strawberry aphids, one of the principal virus carriers, can be controlled effectively with a 1-percent dust of parathion, tetraethyl pyrophosphate, or the gamma isomer of benzene hexachloride.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In all States

Fillers

Ever wonder why the principle of hybridization has not been applied more widely to production of crops other than corn? Plant scientists explain that the process has been too slow and costly. Due to development of new principles of hybridization, commercial production of hybrid onion seed is now becoming well established and the same principles are being employed to an increasing degree with other vegetables.

Most modern vegetable seed catalogs are accurate and useful guides to vegetable quality and cultural requirements. To an increasing degree, seedsmen are devoting catalog space to the bad points as well as the good ones possessed by the varieties they list for sale. Government seed control officers report that a very effective system of collaboration has developed between them and the vegetable seed industry for improving seed quality and seed marketing practices. A growing percentage of highly competent and responsible commercial seed producers anddealers--and laws to protect the public from irresponsible dealers is the result.

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In All States

For release March 15, p. m.
(Simultaneous release from
U. S. Department of Agriculture)

Hydrocyanic Acid Gas Being Used to Eradicate Threat to Fruit and Nut Trees

Entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture report that fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas is proving effective in wiping out Hall scale, an insect which attacks almond, peach, plum, nectarine, and prune trees.

Thus far Hall scale has been found only in California, where it was first discovered in 1934. Early efforts to eradicate it seemed successful until the insect reappeared in 1940. The entomologists point out that if it were allowed to spread, Hall scale could do great damage to fruit and nut trees elsewhere in the United States. However, the fumigation method of control has brought new hope that it can be successfully eradicated in time to prevent such a development.

The scale-type insect feeds upon the trees, but the greatest injury may be done to the fruit. It has already been eradicated from an area containing about 21,000 host trees at Davis, Calif., through cooperative efforts of the U. S. Department's Agricultural Research Service and the California Department of Agriculture. The remaining infested areas, near Chico in north central California, contain about 10,400 trees.

The hydrocyanic acid gas is applied to infested trees by pumping it into a plastic-covered cloth tent, relatively gastight and large enough to encase the entire tree. The fumigation is done in the fall and winter after the trees are dormant so that the gas will not affect the fruit or the tree's growth.

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In Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,
Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi,
Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee,
and Virginia

New Circular Describes Diseases of Soybeans

Among approximately 50 diseases of soybeans that are known in this country, about half occur annually in major producing areas and are responsible for considerable crop losses.

A new circular prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture describes these important soybean diseases and the best-known methods of controlling them. It is designed to help growers, county agricultural agents and research workers to identify the diseases and find the best control measures available.

The soybean being a rather new major crop in the United States, there is still much to be learned about controlling its disease enemies. Research in this subject, including a search for improved and resistant varieties, is advancing among both Federal and State plant specialists. Meanwhile, such practices as crop rotation, fall plowing, use of disease-free seeds, and seed treatment can be used to reduce losses.

A single copy of Circular 931, Diseases of Soybeans and Methods of Control, can be obtained free by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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USDA 634 (3-54)

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In All States

Study Shows Improved Roughage Reduces Dairy Costs

Improving the quality of roughage fed to dairy cattle, and feeding more roughage and less grain and protein, can reduce dairy feeding costs as much as 20 to 25 percent, it has been shown by a 2-year study of feeding practices on 34 southern Michigan farms. The research was carried out by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station working in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Among the farms studied from the fall of 1949 to the fall of 1951, it cost farmers who produced excellent roughage 46 cents less to produce 100 pounds of milk than it cost those whose roughage was of poor quality. Returns above feed costs averaged $64 more per cow for those who fed high quality roughage and less grain.

Farmer A, one of eight with low feed costs, provided his Holstein cows with excellent, well-fertilized alfalfa-brome-ladino pastures grown in a 6-year rotation of corn, oats, hay, pasture, and wheat. A field of second-crop alfalfa-brome was pastured in August, and the cows were fed about 35 pounds of grass silage daily in August and September, along with a daily ration of grain. During the barn-feeding period a daily average of 23 pounds of alfalfa-brome hay, 25 pounds of good quality corn silage, and 1 pound of farm grain to each 4 pounds of milk produced brought good results.

Farmer B had very high feed costs for his herd of Holsteins. His meadows consisted of poor stands of alfalfa-brome, quack grass, and red

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clover. Also, his timing in harvesting was poor. Forage was harvested mainly in the late-bloom to past-bloom stage for both grass silage and hay. Corn grown was tall and had large stalks, and the cows did not relish the silage made from it, refusing about 20 percent. During the first half of the barn-feeding period, the farmer fed 1 pound of grain to 3 pounds of milk produced. Then about the middle of February his hay was gone and he had to buy some mature brome hay. Production of milk lagged, and he had to step up his grain feeding to 1 pound of grain per 2 pounds of milk.

Farmer A's cows averaged 10,700 pounds of milk per cow, and Farmer B's cows averaged 10,600 pounds during the period studied. Differences were largely in the cost of feed in relation to amount of milk produced, with costs rising sharply as more grain and less roughage was fed.

Although these examples are from Michigan, ________________________ (local authority) suggests that dairymen in ______________________ (State) could profit from growing better roughage and adjusting their feeding practices for more efficient use of available nutrients.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

1953 Cash Farm Receipts Down (or Up) in ____________ (State) as Compared With 1952

________________ (State) farmers succeeded in maintaining farm cash receipts in 1953 which compare favorably with those for the Nation as a whole in relation to 1952 receipts. This is shown in a farm income report released by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. (Alternative lead: Farming in ____________ (State) yielded somewhat lower cash receipts last year than in 1951 and 1952, reflecting a nationwide trend reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

Cash farm receipts in ______________ came to ________ percent of 1952 receipts, whereas for the United States as a whole cash receipts were down to 96 percent of the '52 figure. (See map on p. 7 of the attached report.)

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U. S. farm operators realized a net income of 12.8 billion dollars in 1953. Though this was 5 percent less than the amount received in 1952 and 13 percent lower than 1951, it was 4 percent higher than the postwar low of 1950. Income in 1951 reflected the sharply increased demand caused by the Korean emergency.

Total cash receipts in 1953 were lower than in 1952 in 37 States, and higher in 11 States. The decreases ranged from less than 1 percent in North Dakota to 26 percent in Nevada, while increases ranged from less than 1 percent in Pennsylvania to 20 percent in Mississippi.

(OVER)

The realized net farm income is obtained by substracting total estimated expenses of production from estimated gross farm income. Changes in inventories and livestock numbers are not taken into consideration.

(Note to Extension Editors: Some further explanation of changes in your State may be found on p. 6 or p. 7 of the attached report.)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

31We

Extension Editors in Potato States

Potato Planting Guides Call for Small Cut in ________ (State) Potato Acreage*

________ (Local authority) announced this week that potato producers in ________ (State) should cut their acreage of late-crop white potatoes this year to ___ percent of their 1953 acreage (or should not exceed their 1953 acreage) in order to avoid price-depressing surpluses. With average yields, this acreage will provide a crop of _____ million bushels for the State, or ____ percent of its 1953 crop.

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The 1954 potato acreage guides have been developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to Mr. ________, to enable producers to determine their most advantageous production level--the level which will meet all needs and avoid overproduction. The supply of potatoes since the spring of 1952 has exceeded consumer demand, and prices received by growers in most areas have not been high enough to provide a fair return above production costs.

In total, the 1954 potato production guides call for a crop of less than 350 million bushels. Following the large 1953 crop of 373.7 million bushels, this calls for an overall reduction of about 6 percent.

Compliance with the guides is voluntary, Mr. ________ stresses. They have been provided with the belief that producers will serve their own best interests by limiting their production to the amount needed to meet all demands. It is the general policy of the Department of Agriculture to limit surplus removal assistance, in the form of Government purchases and subsidies, to those commodities and areas where there has been substantial compliance with acreage and marketing guides. Compliance with the guides program, however, does not commit the Department to provide assistance for any commodity or area.

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*See list of State guides on page 77 of handbook on 1954 acreage guides.

(more)

The potato guides were developed by the USDA after a careful analysis of trends in production and demand, histories of prices obtained by growers, and storage supplies on hand. They assume average yields and normal weather conditions for the season to which they apply.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

31W2

In All States

Common Disease of Weak Bee Colonies Can Be Controlled by New Antibiotic

Beekeepers who have been having trouble with weak and unproductive package bees or bee colonies may find the solution to their difficulties in a new antibiotic called fumagillin. ______________ (State entomologist) reports that fumagillin is an effective treatment for nosema disease, a common cause of weakness in bees.

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Tests carried out through cooperation between entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and several State experiment stations (notably Wisconsin, but also Minnesota and Iowa) have shown that fumagillin controls the protozoan organism which causes nosema. It was also found that fumagillin can be administered in common feeding practices, and it does not harm the bees when fed in quantities required for nosema control.

Fumagillin is obtainable from established bee supply houses, along with directions for feeding it, ______________ reports. The antibiotic is packaged in lots suitable for use in treating from one to large numbers of bee colonies.

Nosema is described as the commonest cause of trouble in establishment of productive colonies from package bees. The disease is widespread and restricts production of all classes of bees, but its effects are more conspicuous in package colonies because of the small population and the need for vigorous regeneration to establish an independent colony. Infected colonies have less brood and show lower than normal rate of buildup.

(more)

Beekeepers who suspect nosema infection among their bees should send samples of the bees to: ________________________________
(State college, State apiary inspector, or Section
____
of Bee Culture, Entomology Research Branch, U. S. Department of Agriculture,
____________. Sender's name and address and a request for examination
Beltsville, Md.
for nosema disease should be enclosed.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

County Officials Discuss Plans for 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program

Representatives of ______________________, ______________________, and ____________________ met here yesterday (or will meet ________________) to discuss plans for the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program and draw up recommendations on what should be included in ACP next year.

This meeting, according to ____________________________________,
(local authority or county agricultural agent)
is an initial step in the development of the 1955 ACP, through which the U. S. Department of Agriculture is seeking local participation in formulating the program for next year. The ACP is designed to provide Federal funds to share with farmers the cost of carrying out certain soil and water conserving practices, in the public interest, that farmers would not carry out to the needed extent with their own resources.

In each agricultural county in the United States, the Department is calling for the best thinking of agencies and groups having to do with soil and water conservation. Cooperating especially at the county level are the county agricultural agents, local foresters, Soil Conservation Service technicians, representatives of the Farmers Home Administration, officials of Soil Conservation districts, together with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees, and others.

County recommendations are to be submitted to the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee for review in cooperation with representatives of the State land-grant college, State officials of the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and others.

On the basis of local recommendations, State recommendations will be drawn up and submitted to the Department in Washington, D. C., where they are to be used as a guide in developing the national list of conservation and soil-building practices which can be approved for cost-sharing.

USDA 755 (3-54)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

31We

For release April 9, p. m.*

Means of Controlling Imported Fire Ant Described in New USDA Leaflet

The imported fire ant, an annoying and destructive pest prevalent in Southeastern United States, can be controlled successfully with aldrin, dieldrin, or chlordane, according to directions outlined in a new leaflet prepared by U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists.

This imported pest, not to be confused with native fire ants, attacks both plants and animals. Its ability to feed both above and below ground allows it to seriously damage many vegetable crops. It also attacks young calves, pigs, and poultry, often chasing hens from their nests and attacking their newly-hatched chicks. The fire ant both bites and stings people, and great numbers of them can retard or prevent field work.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mounds of imported fire ants, usually about 15 inches in diameter and 10 inches high, are built of soil almost anywhere in the Southeastern States. They mar lawns and recreation areas and interfere with equipment used in harvesting crop fields.

A relative newcomer in this country, the imported fire ant is believed to have first appeared in Mobile, Ala., after traveling here by ship from South America. Since its first identification in 1930, it has spread into 10 Southeastern States.

Complete directions for treating nests and infested areas with the insecticides which effectively control the fire ant are included in the USDA leaflet. The methods of control are based on information obtained in cooperation with State agencies in Mississippi and Alabama. A single free copy may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for Leaflet 350, "The Imported Fire Ant--How to Control It."

*(Note to Editors: A similar but not indentical article will be released simultaneously by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

USDA 895 (4-54)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi,
South Carolina, and Texas.

New Insecticide Controls Sweetpotato Weevil

"Insure your sweetpotato crop against weevil damage this year by treating your seedbeds with dieldrin." That's the recommendation of _________________, (State authority) who says that the sweetpotato weevil caused a $2½ million loss in sweetpotato crops in Louisiana last year.

"Weather conditions in recent years have favored a buildup in weevil numbers," _________________ explains, "and great losses could occur here this year unless preventive steps are taken."

Application of 2-percent dieldrin dust to "mother rows" of sweetpotato plants in the seebed gave excellent control of the weevil in tests at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Sweetpotato Weevil Research laboratory at Lafayette, Louisiana, last year. _________________ suggests that local growers take advantage of this research and treat their own seedbeds this spring when weevil activity is just getting under way.

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The sweetpotato weevil looks much like a large ant, but it can fly, says _________________. It is attracted to sweetpotato seedbeds in early spring, and the adult weevils go with the seed plants to the field plantings. If uncontrolled, the insect feeds on all parts of the sweetpotato plant, making even slightly damaged potatoes bitter and unfit for food.

The Lafayette laboratory is conducting further research to learn whether the dieldrin seedbed treatment can be improved and whether it can safely be extended to field-grown sweetpotatoes. Only the seedbed treatment is recommended at this time.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico,
Oklahoma, and Texas

Reseeded Range Yields Higher Beef Profits

Typical southern-plains rangeland can produce 2 to 3 times as much beef per acre if it is reseeded with improved grasses. This has been demonstrated at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Great Plains Field Station at Woodward, Okla. Success in improving range yields was attributed to the use of well-adapted, nutritious grasses, an effective seeding plan, and subsequent weed control.

Several grass mixtures were tested. Best results were obtained from a mixture of 2 pounds each of blue grama and side-oats grama, plus 1 pound of western wheatgrass, 1 pound of yellow sweetclover, and 1 pound of switchgrass, per acre. This mixture proved dependable for season-long production and provided a well-balanced diet for the grazing cattle. (Two pounds of mixed bluestems and 1/2 pound of sand lovegrass are considered a good addition for unusually sandy soils. For heavy soils, the addition of 1 pound of buffalo grass to the basic mixture is recommended.)

The most successful seeding plan at Woodward began with a crop of sorghum close-drilled about July 1. The sorghum was grazed or cut for hay, largely paying for reseeding, and the grasses were seeded early the following spring on the undisturbed sorghum stubble.

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For purposes of comparison, well-managed native range returned a profit of $4.15 per acre in beef gains at the Woodward Field Station, while an average profit of $7.68 per acre was realized from range reseeded with an experimental mixture of blue grama, side-oats grama, western wheatgrass, and Texas bluegrass.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Special to Extension Editors

In Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Mowing or Spraying Will Keep Sagebrush in Bounds on the Range

Sand sagebrush--the thief of profits on the range--can be controlled either by mowing or by spraying with 2,4-D.

Both of these methods killed three-fourths of the brush and provided relatively sage-free grazing for 10 years in tests carried out cooperatively by the Oklahoma experiment station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Great Plains Field Station at Woodward, Okla.

Extra grazing paid in one year the total cost of control with 2,4-D, and even the costlier mowing returned a good profit over a longer period of time. Both methods left enough sagebrush for soil protection and browsing in late winter and early spring.

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Heavily brushed range needed only one 2,4-D treatment, and the spray was applied for about $2.50 per acre. The best spray was found to be 1 pound (acid equivalent) of 2,4-D in 3 gallons of diesel oil, or in an emulsion of 1 gallon oil to 2 gallons water. Spraying is effective only when the brush is full-leafed and lush--sometime between May 1 and June 10. Spring rainfall and temperature must have been normal or higher, making growth rapid. This method had the advantage of also killing other troublesome weeds such as skunkbrush, perennial broomweed, and golden aster.

Where the mechanical method was used, mowing was done in June. This cost about $3 per acre at Woodward. A follow-up mowing 1 year later was somewhat less expensive.

A study of comparative profits showed that the improved range averaged $2.57 more annual grazing profit per acre than unimproved range when both were summer-grazed. For yearlong grazing the difference was $3.18 per acre.

Both methods require resting the range till fall after treatment, and moderate grazing from then on, the range specialists report. Abusive grazing damages cleared range more than sagebrush range.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

All States

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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Garden Pest Control Fillers

Beans planted early when the soil is still cold are liable to rot. Dusting the seed with thiram (Arasan) is good insurance against this. Addition of aldrin to the thiram will prevent seed-corn maggot injury to the bean seeds and seedlings.

Dormant sprays with a 4-percent white oil emulsion in the early spring will control scale insects on lilac, euonymous, magnolia, and rose. Two or three weekly applications of malathion when the crawling stage of the scale insects appears in May or June is also effective.

Aphids (plant lice) common on the young, tender growth of many plants, particularly in the spring, can be controlled easily by spraying with nicotine or dusting with malathion.

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Spider mites, the cause of stunted leaves on many plants such as phlox, hollyhock, roses, and evergreens, can be seen through a magnifying glass on the under surface of the leaves. During hot weather they build up rapidly and can soon cause severe damage. Malathion, Aramite, or Ovotran in dusts or sprays is effective against them.

Powdery mildew attacks many plants, including roses, lilac, phlox, zinnias, and dahlias. Dusting or spraying regularly with sulfur, beginning when the disease first appears, will provide effective control.

USDA 977 (4-54)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 1 1954
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In All States

Short Storage Space Calls for Reappraisal of Advantages in Farm Storage

With a storage space shortage looming on the horizon this year, a reexamination of the arguments for storing of grains (and oilseeds) on the farm is in order, according to ______________. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has warned farmers that normal crops this year will lead to serious inadequacy in commercial storage space, and along with this warning has gone the reminder that farmers themselves have a primary responsibility for seeing that their crops are properly stored before they can obtain a Government price support loan.

Many farmers who have felt in the past that it was more convenient to store their crops in commercial facilities are building their own storage facilities this year. There are several good reasons for this development, says __________.

In the first place, commercial space which has been readily available in the past may not be obtainable this year, and this could lead to the necessity for dumping crops on a glutted market at harvesttime. The extra profit to be gained by holding the crops for a better price, or by obtaining a Government loan on the stored crop, plus the savings involved in not having to rent commercial space, will help to pay for facilities that will remain useful for a number of years after they are paid for.

In addition, "Uncle Sam" is offering some incentives which also go a long way toward making farm storage pay for itself. Loans to finance up to 80 percent of the cost of new storage facilities and up to 75 percent of the cost of drying equipment are available at 4 percent interest. And a special Federal income tax deduction has been provided for grain producers who build new storage facilities

(Over)

or remodel existing buildings for storage purposes, allowing for amortization of the full value over a period of 5 years.

Mr. ________________ suggests that farmers consult their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee for further information about these Government aids.

County agents will advise farmers on the type of facilities which will best meet their needs.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD ★ MAY 13 1954 ★ U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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In All States

Foresight Will Save Losses on Wheat and Other Grains This Year

It is urgent that wheat farmers act immediately on plans for storing their crops when they are harvested says ______________________ (local authority). Other grain producers, if they have not already acted, will face the same urgent problem a little later.

Recent Government estimates indicate that there will be a serious deficit in storage space needed to protect this year's crops of grains and oilseeds. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that huge carryovers from last year plus normal crops this year may lead to a shortage of as much as 150 to 250 million bushels in storage space. Though the squeeze is expected to be particularly severe in the northern and southern Great Plains, and in the Corn Belt, it will be felt generally.

Asked about what farmers in this area can do to meet the problem of possible storage shortages here, _________________ offers some pertinent advice.

"There are two things that every grain (and oilseed) producer should do right now in order to avoid storage problems at harvesttime this year," _______________ asserts. "First, he should check on whether suitable commercial storage will be available locally and make arrangements, if possible, for the space he will need. Second, he should take necessary steps to provide his own storage space if sufficient commercial space is unlikely to be available, or if he finds that building his own space would pay for itself in extra dividends over the next few years."

_________________ points to the fact that materials for building extra storage space or remodeling existing structures are now easily available, and he lists several aids--in addition to price support loans--that have been provided

(Over)

by the Federal Government to make on-farm storage facilities pay for themselves within a relatively short time. These are loans at 4 percent for building farm storage space or purchasing drying equipment, a special income tax deduction for farmers who add to their own grain storage facilities, and special storage payments for "resealing" grain already stored on the farm under Government loan.

"Consult your local ASC Committee or county agent for details," he urges. "And don't wait until it is too late. The extra 30 to 50 cents per bushel that is often realized by holding a crop for better prices, or by obtaining a Government price support loan, will go a long way toward paying the cost of building on-farm storage space."

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi,
New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee,
and Texas

ULTURE

Only Limited Amount of BHC Should be Applied to Cotton if Peanut Crop Follows

Recent tests show that benzene hexachloride (BHC) insecticide in limited amounts can safely be used on cotton to be followed by a crop of peanuts. Results of the tests, which were carried out by the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the South Carolina Experiment Station at Florence, S. C., are described by ______________________________,
(State or local authority)

Mr. ______________ says that it is important to know that benzene hexachloride is a mixture of materials all of which may contribute to a musty off-flavor in peanuts and peanut butter, but only the part known as the gamma isomer is poisonous to insects.

In the South Carolina tests, peanuts following a cotton crop dusted with 42 to 168 pounds per acre of 3-percent gamma benzene hexachloride dust carried no significant residue of the insecticide when the dust was prepared from a 36-percent gamma BHC. Soil samples taken before the peanuts were planted and at harvesttime were also analyzed and found to be practically free of BHC residue. No off-flavors could be detected in peanut butter made from the peanuts.

Previous studies of this kind had revealed larger residues of BHC on peanuts and definite off-flavors characteristic of the insecticide in the peanut butter when heavy applications were made on a preceding cotton crop. The specialists who made the tests explain the different results in this way--"Higher gamma content BHC is less likely to cause off-flavor because a smaller total amount of

(Over)

the insecticide is needed to provide effective insect control. Older formulations of BHC contained only about 12 percent gamma isomer, and therefore larger total quantities were required."

BHC of higher gamma content--for example, 36 to 40 percent--is now available at reasonable prices. "This is definitely worth while for use in mixtures to be applied on cotton, if the cotton is to be followed by peanuts," says ____________. "And, as shown by the USDA tests, care should be taken to apply no more than the required amounts as stated by the manufacturer."

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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U S DEPARTMENT OF

All States East of the Rocky Mountains

Spittlebug Control Will Increase Forage Yields

Yields of grasses and legumes to be pastured or cut for hay can be boosted by as much as 90 percent and better feeding quality will result if meadow spittlebugs are killed with a timely application of lindane, methoxychlor, or toxaphene spray, according to recent research by the U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists.

The best kills of the meadow spittlebug, according to Dr. F. W. Poos, of the Agricultural Research Service (or a local authority), are obtained when one of these sprays is applied in the spring a week after the spittlebugs begin hatching. Small masses of froth--from which the insect gets its name--appear in the crowns of the plants when hatching begins. The nymphs, or young spittlebugs, living in the froth are the most destructive form of the insect. They suck juices from the plants and, if uncontrolled, stunt the plants' growth and reduce forage yields. Heavy feeding by spittlebugs also causes plants to wilt during hot weather.

Insecticides recommended for use against the spittlebug, although poisonous, are safe to use as long as they are handled carefully and according to the manufacturer's directions. To avoid the danger of chemical residues, 2 weeks should elapse after lindane is sprayed on clover or alfalfa before these crops are pastured or cut for hay. In the case of toxaphene sprays a 40-day waiting period is recommended. When methoxychlor is used, there is no residue problem.

Details on how to protect forage crops from the meadow spittlebug with insecticidal sprays are given in Leaflet No. 341 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, The Meadow Spittlebug. The leaflet includes natural color drawings of the insects in their various life stages to help growers determine when spittlebugs are damaging grasses and legumes. A single copy may be obtained free by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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U. S. [illegible] AGRICULTURE

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31We

All States except Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico,
Wyoming, Montana

For May 7 P.M. release*

Silage Found To Be Excellent Method of Preserving Alfalfa

A 5-year study of different alfalfa-curing methods by the U. S. Department of Agriculture shows that, in semihumid areas, wilted silage provides a better means of preserving nutritive qualities than any other method.

In the USDA experiments, the methods of preservation compared were dehydration, barn curing, field curing, and making wilted silage.

Making wilted silage ranked next to dehydration as the fastest method of processing harvested alfalfa, and it required less labor and less expensive equipment than dehydration. Next to field curing, ensiling was the cheapest method in terms of man-hours and equipment costs, and it was superior to both field curing and barn curing in preservation of nutritive qualities.

In one typical experiment, the scientists found that it required 48.5 hours from time of cutting to storage of field-cured hay, 24.8 hours when barn-drying with forced unheated air, and 7.8 when ensiling. U. S. grade No. 1 extra leafy alfalfa at cutting was reduced to No. 2 leafy alfalfa by field curing, but when barn-cured or made into silage, it graded No. 2 extra leafy. Parts per million of carotene--source of Vitamin A--in the alfalfa were 12 for field-cured, 22 for barn-dried, and 80.4 for silage. There was a 24-percent loss in total digestible nutrients when alfalfa was field-cured in good weather and when barn-cured; nutrient

(more)

loss by ensiling was 15 percent. In terms of efficient milk production, cows on silage had to eat about 5 percent less feed than did comparable animals on field or barn-cured hay. Silage was also more effective than field or barn-cured hay in maintaining vitamin A potency of winter milk.

For information about the best methods of making wilted silage in ______________ (State) farmers should apply to ______________ (State or local authority) or write for ______________ (publication).

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*Note to editors: A somewhat similar release reporting these experiments and announcing a technical bulletin summarizing the results is being released from the U. S. Department of Agriculture on this date.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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For Extension Editors in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia,
Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri,
New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania,
South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and
West Virginia.

Bulletin on Shortleaf Pine Suggests Use for Idle Acres

Farmers and other landowners in ____________________ (State)* who would like to put idle acres to a profitable use may be interested in a newly revised farmers' bulletin on Shortleaf Pine.

Prepared by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the bulletin describes shortleaf pine as a desirable and profitable crop tree, of rapid growth, and producing high-quality, soft textured wood. Though it grows more rapidly on good soil, it can be established successfully on broken, steep, or wornout land. It reproduces itself easily with abundant seed crops. The trunk is characteristically straight and clean.

The bulletin makes many suggestions about how to plant shortleaf pine, good management practices, methods of judging the board feet that can be cut from logs of various sizes, thinning of trees, and uses to which logs of various sizes can be put.

A single copy of Shortleaf Pine, Farmers' Bulletin 1671, can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a local source).

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*Note to Editors: In Pennsylvania the range is limited to the southeastern part of the State, in Missouri to the south, and in Oklahoma and Texas to the easternmost area. In other States the range is general.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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All States

New Farmers' Bulletin Describes Satisfactory Farm Grain Storage Facilities

Prepared especially to help farmers meet a severe shortage of grain storage facilities this year, a new farmers' bulletin released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture describes structures and equipment designed to provide safe storage for grains on the farm. The bulletin should be of great value to farmers who are planning to provide storage space for their own crops this year, says ______________________.

The publication stresses the need for storing only grain with a low moisture content, outlines the basic requirements of a safe storage structure, and points out that some types of storage structures can be used for other purposes when not needed for storing grain. Methods and equipment for reducing moisture content of grain to a safe level and maintaining it during storage are described.

Only clean grain should be placed in storage. Cracked grain, screenings, chaff, and dust provide favorable conditions for development of insect infestations. Even clean grain with a safe moisture content, according to the bulletin, can't be stored and forgotten. Occasional inspection is necessary to detect leaks, insect infestations, and moist, molding, or caking grain.

A single copy of the publication, You Can Store Grain Safely on the Farm, Farmers' Bulletin 2071, can be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from some State source).

JUL 21 1954
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

One Agricultural Research Project Led to Both a Medicine and a Rat Killer

Here's an example of how agricultural research sometimes leads to entirely unexpected benefits.

As part of a federally supported project aimed at producing better varieties of alfalfa and sweetclover, University of Wisconsin scientists sought to find the cause of occasional deaths among cattle consuming sweetclover hay. Their search led them to the discovery of a chemical substance in spoiled hay which showed the natural clotting of blood. When absorbed in sufficient quantities and over a prolonged period of time, it could cause death in a warm-blooded animal.

The scientists, envisioning some constructive uses to which this chemical might be put, went on to develop a substance now well known to the medical world as Dicumarol. Surgeons have put it to good use in preventing postoperative blood clots, and other doctors employ it to treat certain types of heart disease.

Warfarin, a chemically related substance developed by the same agricultural scientists, has become the most effective rat killer known. Mixed with a grain bait, Warfarin is more acceptable to rats than other poisons. It is now being used throughout the world to reduce rat populations which cause untold human misery and enormous economic loss.

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The Wisconsin scientists estimate that their research has already paid for itself many thousands of times in benefits derived from these two chemicals. Yet the same project also achieved its intended purpose--the development of a new high-yielding winter-hardy Vernal alfalfa and several promising lines of improved sweetclover.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

Farmland Values in ____________ Declined Slightly, (or Remained Steady) Between November and March
(State)

Some strengthening in prices of farm commodities since last fall has helped to slow the rate of decline in farmland values which was under way in the latter half of 1953, according to a report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmland values in ____________ declined an average of ____ percent (or,
(State)
showed no overall change) between November 1953 and March 1954. For the year ending in March 1954, the average decrease was ____ percent. (See maps on front cover and inside front cover of attached report.)

Nationally, the average decline in farm real estate values was 2 percent for the 4 months ending in March, the decline being somewhat larger than average in most of the States affected by the drought and lower cattle prices last year and in several Mountain States.

A sharp increase in hog prices and more favorable returns from cattle feeding tended to sustain land values in some States. But farm commodity prices are likely to weaken later this year under the pressure of the large output currently in prospect and large carryover stocks in several major commodities, the report states. Some further decline in farm real estate values by next fall can be expected under these conditions, continues the Department of Agriculture report.

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In contrast with the strong farm real estate market during 1951 and 1952, the report indicates that the market is now much more selective in most areas, with better farms moving more readily than those considered below average. In the fringe areas of the Corn Belt, the drought areas, and portions of the Southeast and Mountain areas there are fewer cash buyers, and many prospective buyers cannot meet the financing requirements of lenders. A seller often must make a substantial concession in price if he wishes an immediate sale or if he does not want to assume part of the financing.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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To Editors in Calif., Fla., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Kans., Ky., La., Mich.,
Minn., Nebr., N.Y., Ore., Penna., S.C., Tenn., Texas,
Va., Wis., Wyo.

(Wisconsin)* Agricultural Leaders Return From Trade Missions to Europe and Latin America

Milo K. Swanton, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Council of Agricultural Cooperatives, and Marvin A. Schaars, economist of the University of Wisconsin, returned to their homes in Madison this week (about May 27)** after participating in special agricultural trade "missions" to Latin America and Europe.

Swanton and Schaars were part of a 35-man team of agricultural leaders sent by President Eisenhower and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson to Asia, Latin America, and Northern and Southern Europe to explore the immediate possibilities of expanding international trade in food and fiber. Traveling in groups, ranging from 8 to 11 members for each area, they were not commissioned to negotiate contracts or arrange sales of any kind, but were to confine their activities to a study of existing trade problems.

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Among the situations to be explored were: means of improving marketing and trade practices; removal of "road blocks" to U. S. exports; currency situations affecting trade in agricultural products; and ways of increasing consumer preferences and of improving the quality, packaging, and handling of U. S. agricultural products.

After a brief visit to their homes the members of the trade "mission" teams will convene in Washington to report their findings to the President and to Secretary Benson.

(over)

USDA 1329 (5-54)

Secretary Benson announced earlier that word received from the "missions" while they were still abroad was generally encouraging about the possibilities of increasing U. S. agricultural trade with other nations on a competitive basis. "But," the Secretary added, "the study groups are consistently noting a demand for high standards in quality and a need for establishing systematic marketing methods and promotional techniques to meet world competition."

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* Note to Editors: See attached sheet for names of men from your State.

** Group chairmen will be delayed for a few days in Washington before returning to their homes. You may want to check the exact dates of arrival of men in your State with their families or organizations.

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In all States

BRUCELLOSIS CAN WIPE OUT DAIRY PROFITS

This year, when it's an economic necessity for dairy producers who want to stay in business to cull low-producing, unprofitable cows, ________________ (local authority) suggests that special attention should be given to getting rid of all brucellosis-infected animals.

"These cows are generally low producers," says ________________, "and as difficult breeders with high calf losses they are likely to become more and more an economic burden as time passes."

Over the past few years a milk test for brucellosis has been used successfully to help spot infected herds. This test eliminates need for the more expensive blood test for brucellosis-free herds.

Milk tests are now being used in 23 States. Since this new-type testing is only one-fifteenth the cost of the blood test and causes no disturbance to the cows, brucellosis-free herds can be checked more frequently for continued cleanliness from the disease. This is important when new animals are added to the herd or dry cows freshen after a previous test.

Dairymen whose herds have not been tested or who have any reason to suspect the presence of brucellosis in their herds should get in touch with their practicing veterinarian, State veterinarian, or State Extension Service (or other local source) for information about testing facilities available in their area, according to ________________________.

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The milk test is made by simply adding a special test fluid to herd milk samples collected either at the farm or at the creamery. If the dye used in making the test fluid rises in a ring to the surface, it indicates that there are antibodies, the natural reaction of a cow's body to the presence of brucella organisms, present in the milk. A herd blood test is then used to identify the specific animals infected. Early spotting and elimination of these animals is advantageous to the owner because it removes a hazard to the rest of his herd, Mr. ______________ stresses.

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In All States

Fillers

While the lives of people are growing longer, the lives of chickens are growing shorter--for broilers, that is. The Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service reports that in 1947 it took an average of 89 days for broilers to reach market size. By 1952, advances in breeding, nutrition, and disease control had reduced market age of broilers to an average of 72 days. This information was based on data from the Delaware Agricultural Extension Service.

More cattle were tested for brucellosis by the blood and milk tests and more calves were vaccinated against brucellosis last year than for any similar period since a Federal-State program aimed at elimination of the disease was begun in 1934. Northeastern States have tested more than twice as many cattle and vaccinated more than twice as many calves, percentagewise, as any other area. Though the degree of infection was relatively high in the Northeast when the project was begun, the percentage of infection is now lower there than in any other area.

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Losses to the livestock industry due to brucellosis were once estimated at $100 million annually. These losses have been reduced but still amount to considerably more than half that amount, according to Dr. A. K. Kuttler, brucellosis specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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In All States

Cattle and Calf Slaughter Up; Hog Slaughter Down in ________ (State) in First Quarter of 1954*

A report from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reveals that ________ head of cattle were slaughtered in ________ (State) during the first 4 months of 1954, as compared with ________ head for the same period last year, Calf slaughter between January and April totaled ________ head, as compared with ________ head for the first 4 months of 1953.

By contrast, hog slaughter fell in this State during the first 4 months of this year to ________ head, as compared with ________ head in the first quarter of 1953. Numbers of sheep and lambs slaughtered remained fairly steady, with ________ head passing through federally-inspected plants the first quarter of this year, as compared with ________ head in the same period last year.

For the Nation as a whole, comparing the first 4 months of this year with the corresponding period a year ago, the number of cattle slaughtered was up 13 percent and calf slaughter was up 20 percent. Sheep and lamb slaughter was only slightly smaller than during the 4-month period last year, while hog slaughter was 16 percent less.

*Note to Editors: See attached report for figures for your State.

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USDA 1432 (6-54)

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1 We Disease Offers New Means of Controlling Insects

Scientists are developing another weapon, in the form of insect disease, to aid in man's age-old fight against the predators which constantly threaten his sources of food, clothing, and shelter. ____________ predicts that insect diseases may shortly become a powerful supplement to other effective methods of insect control.

As perhaps the best-known among diseases so far used in this way, __________ cites the milky spore disease of Japanese beetles developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. First used in 1939, the bacteria of this disease have been dusted over millions of acres in the Eastern United States to destroy the root-feeding grubs and halt emergence of adult beetles.

Alfalfa caterpillar disease developed by the University of California has also been used successfully by growers to control this alfalfa pest. A virus spray developed in Canada gave excellent results in controlling the European pine sawfly when it was applied experimentally in 1951 on New Jersey and Illinois pines.

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In an insect-disease laboratory established less than 2 years ago at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., research center, __________ says that a number of other promising insect disease organisms have now been isolated and identified. These organisms, including protozoa, nematodes, rickettsia, and fungi, as well as bacteria and viruses, appear to offer possible methods of control which would get around some problems of harmful toxic residues and growing insect resistance to insecticides now in use. Most insect diseases are harmless to man, animals, and plants.

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Three diseases now under study look especially promising: a virus disease of armyworms, a fungus disease that kills several insects, and a bacterial disease of the pink bollworm.

Some problems remain to be solved, says __________, before disease can be more generally used for insect control. Effectiveness of living organisms may be limited by temperature, moisture, and their own life spans. Tests are under way at Beltsville to explore and deal with some of these problems.

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In All States

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Indiscriminate Use of Fertilizer Containing "Trace" Elements Not Recommended

Addition of boron, copper, manganese, and zinc to commercial fertilizers is not recommended as a general practice by soil scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or a local authority).

K. D. Jacob, of the Department's Agricultural Research Service, states that applications of these so-called "trace" nutrient elements should be carefully fitted to the established requirements of a crop in relation to the soil and other conditions under which it is grown. Different kinds of plants vary widely in their requirements for and tolerance of the trace nutrients, explains Mr. Jacob, and even small excesses may have highly adverse effects on crop growth and yields.

Present estimates indicate that about 12,000 tons of the trace nutrient elements are used as fertilizer annually. This figure will undoubtedly increase substantially, says Mr. Jacob, as soil reserves are depleted by cropping and as areas of deficiency are better recognized. Meanwhile, on the basis of what is now known about the effects of boron, copper, manganese, and zinc, Mr. Jacob believes it is best to avoid their indiscriminate use in mixed fertilizers.

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The "trace" elements should not be confused with calcium, magnesium, and sulfur, according to Mr. Jacob. These three elements are widely present in mixed fertilizers and are generally more needed for plant nutrition. The elements most needed for plant nutrition--nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium--are usually classed as primary plant nutrients. Calcium, magnesium, and sulfur can be described as secondary plant nutrients. Boron, copper, manganese, and zinc are referred to as "trace" elements because large quantities are never needed.

USDA 1469 (6-54)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

In All States

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

Federal and State Authorities Recommend Culling All Low-Producing Cows

"Cull all low-producing cows before they eat into your profits." That is the recommendation of both Federal and State authorities.

Milk production per cow has risen in the past ten years from an average of 4600 pounds to 5400 pounds, while consumption per person of milk in all forms has declined from 752 to 689 pounds, according to figures supplied by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. As a result, milk production has been exceeding the amount consumed since late 1952.

In order to balance the supply and demand, it will be necessary to produce less or consume more, or perhaps some of each, according to ______________ (State authority). Reductions in milk prices should encourage consumption of dairy products, but they also call for increased efficiency in dairy production. One way to accomplish this is to cull all low-producing cows.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that the culling rate needs to be increased 10 percent over 1953 just to hold cow numbers at the January 1, 1954 level. To bring production into balance with demand, culling should be increased considerably more.

Both Federal and State dairy authorities strongly recommend sending to slaughter any questionable producers. Dairy farmers cannot afford the economic drag which such cows represent.

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"Average and lower-than-average producers not only fail to pay for their own upkeep," says ______________, "but they swell the total volume of milk produced, thereby reducing the potential profits of better producers."

To help decide whether to cull now or in the fall, ______________ suggests a comparison of returns to be made from summer grazing against prospective lower selling prices for the cull cow at the end of the season. Prices of utility-grade cows in a normal year are 9 percent above the yearly average in May--and 7 percent below in November. This means a drop in value of about $20 on a 1000-pound cow. Also, unless pastures are abundant, it is more profitable to save them for the best producers.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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erve In All States

3/We 2, 4-D Sprayers Can Be Cleaned Sufficiently for Some Other Uses--Not All

Conflicting reports are frequently heard about the effects of using for another purpose a sprayer that has previously been used to apply weed killers. One man may report that he washed his herbicide sprayer thoroughly several times before using it for insecticides, and then almost lost his tomato crop from the effects of the spray. Another man may report no ill effects to his crops when he used such a sprayer.

Weed specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or local authority) explain that both such conflicting reports may be accurate because safe use of a herbicide sprayer for other purposes depends upon several things, such as the type of weed killer previously used, the crops to be sprayed, and the method of cleaning.

If the weed killer used was a chemical other than one of the phenoxyacetic acid compounds--2,4-D, 2,4, 5-T, and MCP--the spraying equipment may be reused safely after being washed out thoroughly with water and a small amount of detergent, according to the USDA scientists.

If the weed killer used was a phenoxyacetic acid compound such as 2,4-D, the next thing to be considered is the crop to be sprayed. Cotton, grapes, and tomatoes are highly susceptible to this family of chemicals, and it is best to use a separate sprayer for them because no method of cleaning can be guaranteed to remove all traces of the herbicide. For most plants other than these highly susceptible crops, however, the spraying equipment can safely be used again after it is thoroughly cleaned by either one of two recommended methods.

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To remove 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, or MCP, all pieces of the spraying equipment--tank, pump, spray booms--should be soaked for 24 hours in a 1-percent solution of household ammonia (2 teaspoonfuls per quart of water) and then rinsed several times with clear water. Or the equipment may be washed thoroughly with a 1-percent suspension of activated charcoal and then rinsed thoroughly with clear water.

Careful adherence to these recommendations will permit maximum safe use of your equipment, but don't take chances with susceptible crops or short-cut cleaning methods, warn the USDA specialists.

USDA 1549 (6-54)

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

________ _____Suggests that Farmers Review Liability Insurance Coverage

"Every farmer might well review his liability insurance coverage to determine whether he is adequately protected against the legal risk resulting from injury or death to another person," declares __________ ________________________________. (State authority)

The heavy increase of power machinery on the farm has greatly increased the risk of injury to hired help or tenants. More frequent use of motor vehicles has increased the chance of an accident on the highway. The farmer also has a responsibility to visitors on his farm.

In general, a farmer's liability risks fall into three groups--personal liability, liability to employees, and motor vehicle liability. For information about legal risks involved in relation to these three types, Mr. ____________ suggests that a farmer should consult an insurance agent, a lawyer, a banker, or a farm organization representative. Information about employer's liability under the State workmen's compensation law and how it applies to farmers can be obtained from ________________ ________________________________. (State industrial commission or board)

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USDA 1615 (6-54)

Note to Editor: Except in a few States farmers are exempted from workmen's compensation laws, but in many States they may voluntarily come under the laws by taking out workmen's compensation insurance. You may wish to check and give some clue here as to rights or requirements in your State.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In All States

USDA Leaflet Tells How To Rid Houses of Wood Borers

For a growing number of householders troubled by infestations of powder-post beetles that bore into furniture or into wood used in building structures, a new leaflet issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture offers suggestions for eliminating the problem.

Powder-post beetles, of which there are five groups described in the USDA leaflet, damage wood by tunneling and cutting surface holes. Severely damaged wood becomes a crumbly mass of pellets or borings and sometimes has a honeycombed appearance.

Some light infestations of powder-post beetles can be controlled, according to the USDA leaflet, by saturating the wood with oil solutions of DDT or pentachlorophenol or with a mixture of turpentine in ordinary kerosene. Isolated larvae in readily accessible parts of buildings can sometimes be killed by a "slow diffusion method" of applying insecticide described in the leaflet. Heavier infestations or those behind plastered or paneled walls require fumigation with a poisonous gas, which must be done by a licensed operator.

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Powder-post beetles can be detected by the presence of surface holes bored by adult beetles emerging from the wood, or by borings that have been pushed from the holes. Sometimes adult beetles may be seen crawling on the wood. And in quiet surroundings, a rasping or ticking sound may indicate that larvae of the beetles are tunneling through the wood. When this is so, the tunnels can usually be located by probing with a sharp tool.

(more)

The old house borer, one of the more common and destructive of the powder-post beetles, is rapidly spreading over the eastern half of the United States, according to the Department of Agriculture's Division of Forest Insect Research. Found more and more in lumber used in new construction, it is becoming one of the most serious pests of wood in buildings.

A single copy of Leaflet No. 358, Powder-Post Beetles in Buildings, can be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a local source).

USDA 1646-54

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In All States

Wheat Producers Must Show Marketing Card To Avoid Penalty on '54 Wheat Sales

To sell this year's wheat without paying a marketing-quota penalty, farmers must have a marketing card from their county ASC office identifying their wheat as penalty free, ____________ (local authority) reminds wheat producers.

Unless a marketing card is presented at the time of sale, buyers are instructed to collect $1.12 per bushel penalty, Mr. ____________ explains. All farmers who have harvested wheat within their farm's wheat allotment will be eligible for marketing card certifying that they are in compliance with their acreage allotments. Those without cards will be charged the penalty fee on the assumption that they have harvested wheat in excess of their allotments.

Marketing cards must be called for in person at the county ASC office or requested by letter to the county office by eligible farmers, according to ____________ (county) Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. In some instances where farmers overplanted and then cut the overplanted wheat for hay, plowed it under for green manure, or used it for some purpose other than wheat for grain to bring themselves under compliance, a second check of the farm is necessary to confirm the use of the overplanted acres. Under such circumstances there may be some delay before a compliance card can be issued.

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All States

Tests Show How Close Clipping or Grazing Damages Grass

Here's new evidence from the U. S. Department of Agriculture that close grazing or mowing of grass during the growing season--especially in periods of stress (such as drought) or in late fall, may interfere with establishment and maintenance of a good stand.

Tests carried out by the Soil Conservation Service at the Agriculture Department's research center at Beltsville, Md., showed that taking off one-half or more of the foliage during the growing season caused grass roots to stop growing for a time after each clipping. This was true for both cool-season and warm-season grass species.

Removing 40 percent or less of the foliage, on the other hand, didn't halt root growth at all.

A single cutting that removed more than one-half of the foliage was found to stop root growth for periods ranging from 6 to 18 days. Repeating these severe clippings periodically, as in a system of rotation grazing, prevented root growth of all grasses for 25 to 45 days.

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The percentage of roots that stopped growing varied with the amount of top that was taken off. Clipping of 50 percent of the foliage caused 2 to 4 percent of the grass roots to stop growing for 14 days. But removing 90 percent of the foliage halted root growth completely for 17 days, and 40 percent of the roots were still inactive at the end of a 33-day test.

F. J. Crider, who conducted the tests at Beltsville, says the damage from repeated heavy clippings is significant for both soil conservation and pasture management. Reducing the top by more than one-half, he explains, upsets the functioning of the root system and the plant as a whole. With repeated cutting or grazing of more than one-half the foliage, the grass cannot replenish its food reserves. So the effects of root inactivity are lasting. The plant thus weakened is less able to resist erosion and grazing, as well as drought, cold, and disease.

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Continued Stable Corn Prices Expected

The Agricultural Marketing Service reports that prices of corn are likely to continue stable throughout this summer.

Although supplies of "free corn" are relatively tight because of large quantities held under price support, the CCC is selling 1948 and 1949 corn at current market prices.

A record carryover--probably around 950 million bushels--is expected when the current marketing season ends next October 1. Prices for other feed grains have declined seasonally as harvesting of new crops begins.

USDA 1756 (7-54)

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All States

Fillers

The frozen French fried potato is the second ranking frozen vegetable in retail sales, exceeded only by peas. Last year, 3½ million bushels of Irish potatoes were used for this product.

A new 35-fold unsweetened lime juice "superconcentrate" has been developed by chemists of USDA's Citrus Products Station at Winter Haven, Fla. Advantage offered by this product is saving in space and transportation costs without flavor loss.

The USDA recently announced a new peach variety, the "Red-globe." It is adapted to areas where the Elberta peach is grown, but it ripens about 15 days earlier than the Elberta.

The USDA estimates that about 35 percent fewer 1953 crop soybeans are available for crushing in the period June to September than was true for 1952 crop soybeans in the same period last year.

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USDA 1757(7-54)

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In All States

Expect Milk, Butterfat Prices to Continue Steady

Farmers' prices for milk and butterfat are expected to continue near June levels the remainder of this year, according to information recently released by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

There will, however, be seasonal increases for milk in a number of fluid milksheds. Except for butter, reductions in prices paid farmers for milk used in manufacturing have been slow to reach retail level.

The decline in retail prices for American cheese and evaporated milk has been less than half the equivalent of the drop in support prices. Prices of ice cream in pint containers are down only slightly, although in many parts of the country substantial reductions have been made for purchases in larger containers.

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In Cotton States

Record Foreign Consumption "Ups" Cotton Exports

Record foreign consumption of cotton and diminishing foreign supplies have stimulated United States exports in recent months, according to a report by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Exports in April totaled 418,000 running bales, largest for the month since 1951. According to trade reports, exports continued high in May.

Stocks of cotton in the foreign free world at the end of this season are expected to be down to the lowest level since 1949. Practically no surplus will be available in foreign countries whose exports exceed their imports, the AMS report said.

USDA 1776 (7-54)

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In All States

Increase in Cigarette Types of Tobacco Predicted

Prospects for tobacco production and carryover indicate that supplies of the two main cigarette types--flue-cured and Burley--for 1954-55 will be up slightly from 1953-54, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Cigarette production in 1954-55 is expected to equal the number of cigarettes produced this past year. Exports of all types of tobacco for the current fiscal year are expected to total about 530 million pounds (farm sales weight), 5 percent more than last year.

The outlook points to an increase in exports for 1954-55, according to the AMS report.

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In All States

Cost-Sharing Provisions Continued in 1955 Conservation Program

Cost-sharing provisions of the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program will be continued on about the same basis as for 1954, says (county agent or ASC chairman). Now that the National program has been announced, steps are being taken to develop State and county programs. The National program provides the authority and sets up broad principles as a guide for developing local programs.

In 1955, particular attention will be given to meeting conservation problems on land taken out of crop production in complying with acreage allotments. According to _______________, such land should be used to build up moisture and fertility reserves.

Mr. _______________ made it clear that any ACP cost-sharing is to be used to aid farmers in meeting specific conservation problems on diverted acres and in no way represents a payment for complying with acreage allotments.

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Emphasis again will be given to those conservation measures which will continue to provide protection and land-use improvement in the years to come. As under the 1954 program, cost-sharing on a number of practices will be on the basis of the initial establishment of the practices. The responsibility for maintaining the practice will be up to the farmer.

Under the 1955 program, farmers will be given more than one year to complete "package-type" (multiple-unit) practice projects. Under the 1954 program all units of a multiple-unit project had to be completed within a year.

An example of a multiple-unit or package-type practice would be the establishment of sod cover on an eroded hillside. This project might involve

(more)

several actions or "units" -- such as filling gullies, preparing a seedbed, securing grass and legume seed, and perhaps liming and fertilizing -- all within the over-all project to establish the sod cover on the hillside. Under the 1955 program, a farmer may receive his cost-sharing conservation payments as he completes a unit of the project, and does not have to wait until the entire project is completed.

The 1955 program continues the provision for the development of practices to meet special local conditions or emergencies.

Cooperating in the development of the Agricultural Conservation Program for ____________ county will be the county agricultural agent, representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, and Forest Service, as well as officials of local soil conservation districts and county and community Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees.

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In All States

Making Pastures "Last" Through Summer, Fall

Being prepared to supply additional water when it is needed may prove to be good insurance against pasture loss during the hot, dry months of summer and fall.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports it may be possible for farmers to save enough pasture in 1 or 2 years to pay the cost of irrigating equipment. Conditions for supplying irrigation water vary, of course, among different farms, and farmers will want to do some figuring before making a final decision.

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In tests recently conducted with the Tennessee Dairy Experiment Station, returns from pastures that were irrigated average about $100 more per acre than similar unirrigated pastures--after cost of irrigation and other costs were deducted.

The tests compared irrigated orchard grass, alfalfa, and ladino pasture with unirrigated. It was found that the irrigated plots provided 257 cow-days of grazing per acre against 176 days for the unirrigated plots.

The irrigated plots produced 12,520 pounds of milk and 523 pounds of butterfat per acre against 8,019 pounds of milk and 354 pounds of butterfat from the unirrigated plots, according to the report.

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Fillers

Output of principal summer commercial vegetable and melon crops for fresh market in 1954 is expected to be 5 percent above last year and 9 percent above average, according to a recent USDA report.

The 1954 planted acreage of vegetables for commercial processing is about 5 percent less than last year and 8 percent below average, according to a recent report by USDA's Crop Reporting Board. The total 1954 planted acreage of the processing crops, for which estimates are made as of July 1, is 1.71 million acres compared to 1.80 million acres in 1953 and an average of 1.86 million acres for the 1943-52 period.

More persons were employed as hired workers on farms during the week of June 20 to 26 than a year earlier while farm wage rates were lower, USDA's Crop Reporting Board recently reported. However, the number of family workers was about 200,000 less than a year ago, which more than offset the increase in the number of workers. Slightly more than 9½ million people were at work on farms; of this total, about 7 million were farm operators and unpaid members of families.

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Nearly 358 million acres of crops were planted or growing as of July 1, according to a recent report by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA. This is only about a million acres less than the average for the 1943-52 period or the 1953 total, despite reductions of about 20 million acres in crops under allotments. This indicates that land taken out of wheat and cotton was largely put into other crops with some diversion to grasslands and summer-fallow.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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In All States

June Milk Output Is Second Largest for Month

As farm dairy herds reached seasonal peak production in early June, the milk output was the second largest for the month, the Crop Reporting Board of USDA recently reported.

Later in the month, however, the output turned down rapidly because of hot, dry weather and relatively poor pastures in many areas. Production per cow in farm herds on July 1 was only slightly below the record for the date, but had dropped more sharply than usual from June 1, the report indicated.

Figures from the report also showed that the percentage of cows milked also dropped much more sharply than usual during June.

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USDA 1814(7-54)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Cattle Feeders Ration Protein by Adding Salt

An increasing number of southwestern cattle are taking their oil meal with considerably more than a grain of salt these days as a result of recent experiments at the Southern Great Plains Field Station at Woodward, Okla.

For some years cattlemen have added salt----as much as half salt and half meal in some cases----to regulate the amount of self-fed protein supplement that cattle consume. They recommend the practice to other cattle feeders as a labor-saving means----supplements can be put out weekly instead of daily.

The scientists at the field station have found that loose salt, with cottonseed meal or meal-grain mixtures can be used to hold daily consumption of protein supplements to the desired level.

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Larger, more vigorous animals move on to other grazing after eating their fill, leaving plenty for smaller, weaker, or more timid animals, the researchers report.

The scientists also say a salt-meal mixture helps train calves to eat supplements. And bunks may be placed away from water to encourage animals to graze equally over the range.

Recent research has shown that the required proportion of salt to meal varied with age and weight of the animals, quantity and quality of range or pasture forage available, length of feeding period, and the amount of meal intended for daily consumption.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Extension Work Racks up Dividends

An estimated 5,393,822 families changed one or more agricultural practices in 1953 as a result of extension activities, according to a recently compiled report by the United States Department of Agriculture.

This was 16 percent greater than was reported in 1952. Of this total, 3,349,661, or 62.1 percent, were farm families, while 950,533, or 17.6 percent, were rural nonfarm families. The survey results indicated that 1,093,628, or 20.3 percent, of the families assisted lived in urban areas.

Estimates of county extension agents participating in the survey place the total number of families assisted, by some phase of extension work, during 1953 at 8,313,429, or 24 percent more than were reported the year before.

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According to the survey report, the number of farm families assisted showed a decrease of 10 percent, while the number of nonfarm families assisted increased 89 percent.

In 1953, for the first time, provision was made in the statistical report form for reporting assistance given urban families separate from rural nonfarm families. This has doubtless resulted in more fully reporting urban extension work than in previous years, said the survey report.

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In All States

Family Size Farms Produce Almost Three-Fourths of Farm Products Sold

Is the family-size farm on its way out? With the development of mechanized methods that make large-scale farming possible, many people have pondered this question. ____________________ says latest Census figures indicate that family-size farms are still very much in the picture--producing almost three-fourths of total farm products sold--after more than three decades of mechanization.
Local authority

The 1950 Census divided the 5.4 million U. S. farms into two groups, 3.7 million commercial farms and 1.7 million noncommercial farms. The latter are mainly part-time and residential, accounting for only 2.5 percent of the value of farm products sold in 1949.

Commercial farms were divided into economic classes on the basis of sales. The three main classes were large-scale, family-scale, and small-scale. The large-scale were all those with $25,000 or more sales; the family-scale were those with $1,200 to $25,000; and the small-scale were those between $250 and $1,200, unless they had enough off-farm work or income to be classed as part-time farms.

Nearly 80 percent of all commercial farms fell into the family-scale class. These accounted for about 70 percent of the value of total farm products sold. "Clearly," says ____________________, "at this point most farm businesses are still in the family class."

USDA 1881 (7-54)

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In All States

Fillers

The length of workday on farms, as well as the number of workers, has gradually been declining in recent years. The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that farm operators were averaging about 11 hours and 18 minutes work per day this past spring, about ten minutes less than last year. Their hired hands were averaging 9 hours and 24 minutes, about six minutes less than last year's average.

Lower retail prices have led to increased butter consumption by householders according to estimates recently published by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Purchases of butter for household use were estimated at 58.5 million pounds in May, up about half a million pounds from April, and four-and-a-half million pounds more than average monthly purchases between last November and January of this year. Householders reported paying 66 cents per pound for butter in May, a little less than the April price level, but 10 cents per pound below the November 1953 to January 1954 average.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico,
Oregon, Texas, and Utah

Bluetongue Vaccine Now Available

Good news for Southwestern sheepmen is reported by ____________________. A vaccine for bluetongue, the sheep disease which causes crippling and a characteristic swollen blue tongue, is now in production in four commercial laboratories.

Developed cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the State of California, and private companies on the basis of work done earlier in South Africa, the vaccine is harmless to sheep and will immunize them against bluetongue, which shows up in flocks about this time of year.

Bluetongue, says ____________________, is caused by a virus present in blood, tissue fluids, and organs of infected animals. It is spread by small biting insects known variously as sandflies, midges, punkies, and no-see-ums.

The disease has been officially diagnosed in Arizona, California and Texas. It has also been reported in New Mexico and Utah, and has probably been present also in some other Western States.

In addition to sheep deaths caused by bluetongue, flock owners have suffered severe losses from other conditions resulting from the disease--loss of weight, poor wool quality, and screwworm infestations. Veterinarians will be able to advise individual sheepmen about the best time to immunize their flocks.

USDA 1883 (7-54)

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In All States

Bulletin Suggests Effective Control of Grasshoppers

Early action means less plant damage and less work in controlling the grasshopper menace, and a "wait and see" attitude can mean serious losses and more acres needing treatment later in the year, according to entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A new publication prepared by the Department recommends taking early measures to control grasshoppers whenever they become noticeably abundant, before they damage crops and range. It also suggests a complete cleanup of grasshoppers in one year, instead of halfway measures year after year, as the most inexpensive, effective means of controlling the insect pest.

Insecticides are the major weapon, but slight modification in tillage and seeding practices may sometimes greatly reduce the number of acres needing treatment with chemicals.

U. S.

Estimates made by grasshopper-control leaders in 23 Western States give an idea of the economic losses due to grasshopper damage to crops. During the 5-year outbreak period 1934-38, average yearly losses were nearly $63 million, with a total of almost $316 million. Throughout the United States there is considerable damage to crops by this insect every year.

The new USDA bulletin describes damage caused by 'hoppers, what different species look like, how they develop, where and how they live, how outbreaks occur, and how to control such outbreaks.

A single copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 2064, Grasshoppers--A New Look at an Ancient Enemy, can be obtained free by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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In All States

"Preprepackaging" Aids Apple and Pear Growers

Transparent plastic films such as Pliofilm, polyethylene, and cellophane have already "earned their salt" in the prepackaging of fresh fruits and vegetables, but now some of these same transparent films are proving their worth in preprepackaging certain fruits.

Results of recent studies made by the United States Department of Agriculture indicate that certain sealed film box liners for fall and winter pears and Golden Delicious apples substantially lengthen the cold-storage life and maintain the quality of these fruits.

These box liners also extend the fruits' "shelf life" after removal from refrigerated storage.

Physiological changes in pears, generally associated with progressive ripening of the fruit in cold storage, were definitely retarded by the use of sealed film liners.

While biochemical tests did not always reflect the benefit of sealed film box liners for Golden Delicious apples, visual and taste examination and a check of weight loss of the fruit during storage showed the value of this packing method.

Certain precautions must be taken, however, when fruit is packed in these liners, the study indicated. Fruit should be free of surface abrasions and potential fungi infection, washed with an effective fungicide, and handled carefully to minimize bruising, as moisture conditions within the sealed package are conducive to decay.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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Special to Extension Editors

In all States

Window-Type Cartons Help to Sell Eggs

Housewives like to see the eggs they buy, according to evidence recently gathered in New York State.

Research personnel of Cornell University and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service cooperatively designed window-type egg cartons which provide more open space in the cover than cartons currently in use, and tested them for effect on sales in supermarkets in New York State.

Three types of these cartons were used, each differing in the amount of window space. The evidence strongly suggests that the window-type cartons favorably affect egg sales with greatest sales per hundred customers occurring with cartons having the greatest amount of space devoted to windows.

The window cartons were developed after previous research studies in egg marketing revealed that more than 50 percent of the customers who were purchasing eggs hesitated before selecting the package they were going to buy. Nearly one-fifth of the customers, 18 percent, handled the closed-type cartons now in use---comparing weights, feeling the tops, viewing the eggs through the end of the cartons or opening the cartons before making their final choice.

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In All States (For Release August 13)

More Farmers Benefiting from "Modern Machine Age"

Within the last decade or so, much of the back-breaking work of farming has disappeared -- thanks to increased mechanical power. No longer does the American farmer have to rely solely on muscle power to get his farm tasks out of the way.

Increase in mechanization of U. S. farms has been pronounced since 1940, especially in the South. Figures recently compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that from 1940 to 1953, numbers of farm tractors of all types in this country increased about 185 percent, and for motor trucks, the increase was about 150 percent.

Numbers of farm tractors in the southern States bordering the Mississippi River and east of the river increased sixfold during the same period, the report indicated.

On the other hand, farm automobiles for the country as a whole have increased since 1940 by less than 10 percent.

The USDA report said that since 1942, the number of farms with milking machines has increased by about 180 percent, while the number of field-type cornpickers has increased about 400 percent. The number of grain combines on farms in 1953 exceeded 900,000, compared to 375,000 in 1945 and only about 69,000 in 1930, according to the report.

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In All States

USDA Economists Compare Costs of Farm Labor, Machinery

Labor is currently relatively expensive, with farm wage rates more than four times as high as those paid before the Second World War. During the same period prices of machinery, including tractors, have approximately doubled, and prices of motor supplies, including gasoline and other fuels, have increased about 50 percent.

These and other statistics have been recently compiled by U. S. Department of Agriculture economists who say the amount and cost of labor saved by adopting mechanical methods of performing farm work will continue to be an important consideration in farm planning.

These figures indicate that for most field crops, a good deal less labor is used per acre than was used in 1910-14. The almost complete conversion from horses and mules to tractors, trucks, and other forms of mechanical power and associated machines is the main reason for the big drop.

According to the recently published statistical report, the greatest proportional decrease in man-hours per acre occurred on small grains and other crops similarly produced. Based on 100 percent for 1910-14, the percent of labor per crop units produced in 1950-53 was: all corn, 37; oats, 39; wheat, 29; rice, 27; hay, 55; potatoes, 89; sugar beets, 55; and cotton, 60 percent.

Tobacco is at the opposite end of the scale. It is chiefly harvested by hand and the significant increase in yield has resulted in more man-hours per acre. However, the increase in hours has been less in proportion to the increase in yield, the USDA economists report.

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In All States

New USDA Publication Tells How To Control Lice On Poultry

Keeping hens free of biting lice helps them maintain weight and produce more eggs, according to a new U. S. Department of Agriculture leaflet.

The publication describing poultry louse control says that heavy infestations can reduce egg production as much as 20 percent--can even kill poultry.

Leaflet 366, Poultry Lice--How To Control Them, describes four control methods that can be used successfully on both commercial and farm flocks. These are:

1. Dusting infested birds with such insecticides as DDT, rotenone, sodium fluoride, or sodium fluosilicate.

2. Dipping infested birds in a warm-water bath containing a small amount of sodium fluoride or sodium fluosilicate.

3. Painting roosts in poultry houses with the organic insecticide lindane, or with nicotine sulfate.

4. Spraying the interior of poultry houses with lindane.

The dips and the dusts (if they penetrate through the feathers to the birds' skins) kill lice by contact. The poultry house sprays and roost paints provide toxic vapors that will kill lice on roosting birds.

Illustrations of the poultry louse and photographs depicting the control methods are included in the new publication. Single copies of Leaflet 366 can be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a local source).

USDA 2082 (8-54)

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In All States

Uptrend in Milk Cow Numbers Halted

During the first 6 months of 1954 the number of dairy cows on farms of American milk producers remained at a stable level, contrasting with the moderate uptrend which started in early 1952 and extended through 1953.

Recent estimates by the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicate the number of milk cows in June this year, totaling 22.5 million head, was about 1½ percent greater than in June a year ago, but the milk cow population was about the same as in December 1953.

Geographically, the change in milk cow numbers during the year ending this past June was characterized by continued moderate increases in the northeastern, upper Great Lakes, and Pacific coast areas.

A pronounced downturn was noted in the middle Corn Belt and Central Plains States where hogs and other alternative enterprises compete with milk cows for the farmers' feed and labor, according to the USDA report.

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USDA 2118 (8-54)

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In All States For release on or after August 25

Increase in Cattle Numbers Halted: Slaughter High for All Red Meat

More cattle slaughter this year points to the possibility of slightly smaller cattle numbers by next January, as compared with last January, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The larger marketings are partly a result of dry weather, partly to less interest in expanding beef herds in some regions, the Department explains.

Beef production is running at record levels. Prices of fed cattle are not likely to change much this fall, the Department estimates, while prices of grass cattle can be expected to make the usual seasonal decline. Feeders in areas having feed available will be in a much more favorable position than those in dry areas where feed is short and higher in price.

Since mid-July, more hogs also are being slaughtered than last year. Hog prices are expected to trend seasonally downward and to continue considerably below the rather high prices of last fall.

Seasonal decrease in prices for lambs has been earlier and greater than usual, with more sheep and lambs slaughtered this summer than last. There appears to be little prospect of any substantial price recovery until the fall marketing season is past.

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USDA 2152 (8-54)

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In All States

Guide to Flower Lore Prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture

For commercial flower growers and amateur botanists interested in the flowers of their locality or region the U. S. Department of Agriculture has published a guide to publications on popular flowers of the United States and Alaska.

The new bulletin lists by author and describes briefly 25 general publications, 52 on the Northeastern region, 11 on the Pacific region, 6 on the Southeast, and 20 covering the States west of the Mississippi to the 3 Pacific coast States.

It also lists and describes 212 publications covering the wild plants of individual States. There is at least one of these popular botanical publications for each of the 48 States except Rhode Island. Some cover only a county or other restricted area. There are 17 listed for California, 13 for Florida, and 10 for Texas. Illinois, New York, and Pennsylvania have 8 each. The number of publications for other States runs from 1 to 7.

Some of the publications listed are out of print, but undoubtedly they can be located in public libraries. The brief introduction is packed with lore about American flowers and facts about standard references on this subject. All efforts are directed toward making it easy for the nontechnical botanist to find information about flowers.

Bibliographical Bulletin 23 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 25 cents a copy.

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In All States

New Law Provides Support for Local Groups for Water Management, Flood Prevention

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act passed by the recent session of Congress and signed by President Eisenhower (Public Law 566, 83d Congress) provides a basis for more effective cooperation between local watershed groups and the Federal Government in solving water management and flood prevention problems.

The program supplements both the farm-by-farm conservation approach of soil conservation districts and the programs for development and flood protection of major river valleys. Details of administration will be worked out by the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Federal help provided for is available to assist local organizations to plan and install needed water-management and flood-prevention measures that cannot be installed under other current programs.

Local organizations are authorized to ask the Secretary of Agriculture for assistance which cannot be obtained from resources available in the watershed or State. Organizations eligible to sponsor a project include any State or its political subdivisions, a soil or water conservation district, a flood prevention or control district, or any other agency having authority under State law to carry out, maintain, and operate works of improvement.

Local people are expected, under the act, to share the costs of installation of measures in accordance with the benefits they expect to obtain.

One of the conditions for Federal assistance specified in the act is that the local organization shall: "Obtain agreements to carry out recommended soil conservation measures and proper farm plans from owners of not less than 50 percent of the lands situated in the drainage above each retention reservoir to be installed with Federal assistance."

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In All States

Loans for Water Facilities and Conservation Measures To Be Insured by Government

An amendment to the Water Facilities Act passed by the 83d Congress will make available to farmers a new type of credit for financing soil conservation measures. In addition, water facility loans to develop irrigation systems and farmstead water supplies, previously limited to 17 Western States, are extended to the rest of the Nation.

The loan services authorized will be made available through the Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Applications must be made to county offices of FHA.

An outstanding feature of the law is provision for insuring loans made by private lenders. Where insured loans from private sources are not available for approved projects, some direct Government loans will be made.

Interest rates for insured loans from private sources will be 4 percent a year on the unpaid principal, plus an annual loan insurance charge of 1 percent. On direct loans the interest rate will be 5 percent.

Loans can be used to pay cash costs of materials, equipment, and services directly related to the application or establishment of soil and water conservation practices, water facilities, or drainage. This may include such things as construction or repair of terraces, dikes, and ponds, pasture improvement, basic application of lime and fertilization, and tree planting. Water facilities that can be financed with these loans include tanks, cisterns, wells, pumping and irrigation equipment, and similar facilities.

Eligibility for loans under this new legislation will be passed upon by the local three-member county committee of the Farmers Home Administration. Loans will be made only for the types of soil and water conservation practices recommended by the Soil Conservation Service, the Extension Service, and other agricultural agencies. No loans can be made for annually recurring costs that generally are considered as farm operating costs.

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Conservation Costs Can Now Be Treated as Current Expense for Income Tax

______________ draws attention to a new provision of law
(Local authority)
which will have the effect of reducing actual costs to farmers of measures taken to solve soil and water conservation problems.

Under a provision in the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (Public Law 591, 83d Congress), farmers making out income tax returns this year may treat as current expenses costs they incur for carrying out certain soil and water conservation measures.

The costs must be incurred in connection with land actually used in farming. They are described in the law as "expenditures paid or incurred for the treatment or moving of earth, including (but not limited to) leveling, grading and terracing, contour furrowing, the construction, control, and protection of diversion channels, drainage ditches, earthen dams, watercourses, outlets, and ponds, the eradication of brush, and the planting of windbreaks."

Not included as deductible expenditures are "the purchase, construction, installation, or improvement of structures, appliances, or facilities which are . . . . subject to the allowance for depreciation."

On the other hand, assessments by a soil or water conservation or drainage district to accomplish measures which would be treated as current expenses if performed by the taxpayer himself may be listed as a current expense, according to Mr. ______________.

In no one year can more than 25 percent of gross income from farming be listed as a current expense for conservation costs. If actual expenditures

(more)

exceed this limit in any one year, the excess may be listed in succeeding years in order of time.

Farmers who are uncertain about which expenditures for conservation can be treated as current expenses can obtain additional information from the Internal Revenue Service (or some other local source).

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In All States

Search Continues for Meat-Type Hogs

Housewives' demand for leaner pork, coupled with our mounting fats surplus, is pushing swine producers to grow and market more meat-type hogs.

Animal husbandmen of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are currently collecting information in a field research program launched this summer by the swine industry to develop methods for identifying superior meat-type breeding stock.

The program's objective is to determine (1) how closely estimates of fatness and conformation of live hogs check with the cutout weights after slaughter and (2) to what extent these characteristics are transmitted to progeny.

Working with swine breeders, USDA animal husbandmen estimate the fatness of each hog in several purebred test herds---there are meat-type hogs in every breed. Then, using the probe method developed by Iowa State College, they measure the back fat and ear-tag the animals for future identification.

Later, the breeders and Department livestock specialists check carcass data from some of the hogs which have been marketed against the estimates they had made earlier. Next year, they will do the same work with progeny of the hogs they're working with this year. Thus, breeders will be able to use the data in marketing their breeding stock.

Barrows, gilts, and boars are included, since the sex of the animal influences backfat thickness. Back fat thickness is highly correlated with changes in carcass quality of individual hogs, report the animal researchers.

USDA 2245 (8-54)

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In All States

Research Seeks To Cut Down Annual Parasite Bill

Three hundred varieties of internal parasites of economic interest to our livestock industry caused estimated losses of more than $432 million a year from 1942 to 1951.

In adding up such a total, mortality figures are easiest come by, but it's more difficult to arrive at a loss due to condemnation of parts of or whole carcasses under meat inspection. Even harder to evaluate is the waste of feed, labor, and space used in raising these animals.

And only a "guesstimate" can be made of the interference with breeding and conception. Furthermore, internal parasites account for a vast area of reduced quality, with accompanying lowered market grades and sales value.

Science keeps chipping away at these losses, however. At the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., sheep given free access to 1:9 mixture of phenothiazine and loose salt have remained essentially parasite-free for 12 years.

Cattle do better on a mineral mixture of 3 parts each of salt, bone meal, and crushed limestone and 1 part of phenothiazine (by weight), researchers have found. Cattle and swine don't ordinarily show such spectacular symptons as sheep sometimes do--but the parasites are there, adding daily to farmers' production costs and the Nation's feed bill.

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In All States

(For release after Sept. 8)

Tomato Juice Powder Developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture

A powder which can be transformed into a fine-flavored tomato juice by simply adding water--even ice water--has been developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The tomato powder is another in a growing family of fruit-juice powders developed by the Department.

Advantages of these powders over other methods of concentration and preservation are their lighter weight and better keeping properties at high temperatures--no refrigeration is necessary.

None of the powders is yet in commercial production, though a plant is being constructed in Florida to produce orange and grapefruit powders. Meanwhile USDA scientists are making progress on the development of powders from prunes, apples, and pineapples.

The tomato and orange powders are prepared by a "puff drying" process. The juice is concentrated and homogenized, then dried in a vacuum chamber. The resulting sponge is pulverized into a fine, flaky powder and canned with a packaged drying material.

The tomato powder was developed by the Department at the request of the Quartermaster Corps for a powder that could be used either for juice or as a substitute for tomato paste or puree. A spray drying process, also developed by the Department, produces a product satisfactory for use in soup and similar combinations and is considerably less expensive to produce.

Conversion of juices to powders, along with improved marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen concentrated and canned juices, can go a long way toward stabilizing the market for these products.

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In All States

Plum Island Laboratory Begins Work on Virus Diseases

Scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture recently began research on vesicular diseases of livestock at the Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory near Long Island, New York.

Facilities already on the 800-acre island allowed intensive studies of these diseases to begin almost 2 years ahead of schedule. Initial work is centered on the virus causing vesicular stomatitis, similar to foot-and-mouth disease in many ways. Research on foot-and-mouth disease itself will soon begin, also.

The scientists are working toward a number of objectives, including improvement in diagnostic methods, finding out how the viruses are passed from one animal to another, development of more effective vaccines, and such fundamentals as the chemical and physical properties of the viruses.

The laboratory that's now in use limits studies to one phase of a disease at a time. Completion of the main laboratory in about 18 months will permit fourfold expansion of the present program. Located on an island across 2½ miles of water, the laboratory is one of the most isolated and secure installations in the world.

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USDA 2266 (9-54)

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In All States

Method Developed for Predicting Young Cow's Production at Maturity

Dairy scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture get reliable indications of how much milk a young cow will give at maturity by multiplying her early production by certain "age conversion factors."

Such an estimate of a young cow's potential production could be a tremendous help to the individual farmer in deciding whether she is worth keeping as a milch cow, says ____________________. It can also furnish a means of making an early analysis of her sire's desirability as a breeding animal.

The "conversion factors" used by USDA in estimating a cow's capacity vary slightly with the age of the cow and with different breeds, but they are simple enough so that anyone can use them. Farmers can obtain tables giving the conversion factors from the Dairy Husbandry Research Branch, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

These tables have been used for many years by scientists conducting the nationwide Dairy Herd Improvement Association's sire-proving program. Within the last year the figures have been revised to reflect more accurately differences in production of animals of different ages. Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, and Shorthorn are included. The revised factors are based on a study of the 305-day lactation records of nearly 600,000 cows of all ages milked twice a day, reported from 1945 through 1952.

"The new conversion factors cut to a minimum the possible margin of error in estimating a cow's mature production," says J. F. Kendrick, in charge of the DHIA work for USDA (or a local authority).

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USDA 2267 (9-54)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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In Eastern States

Tips for Irrigation "Beginners" in the Humid East

Time spent in planning before the installation of an irrigation system is time well spent---and it will save plenty of headaches later on.

Irrigation specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture emphasize the fact that the success of a venture into irrigation farming rests on two major factors; (1) the proper design of the system to fit the particular farm and (2) the proper operation of the system in accordance with the standards of the original design.

They recommend buying sprinklers from a reputable dealer, if they are to be used, because he can furnish adequate engineering assistance to assure proper design. The irrigation specialists also suggest having a competent irrigation engineer lay out and supervise the construction of the irrigation system if plans call for irrigating with water flowing over the land surface.

One of the most important items to remember, say the irrigation experts, is for the farmer to check his water supply and his legal right to the water before he selects his watering system and decides the size of the area to be irrigated.

In order to make his investment pay, the irrigator, particularly in the humid East, must shoot for high production. Besides meaning just addition of irrigation water when it's dry, maximum returns depend upon good rotations, high fertilization, and soil conservation.

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In California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico,
Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington

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Beet Leafhoppers Spread Curly Top Virus in Western Crops

Beet leafhoppers move long distances each year and cause extensive damage to sugar beets, beans, tomatoes, and other crops by transmitting curly top virus --not by mass feeding.

The insect pest cannot be controlled by ordinary chemical or cultural methods. Control can be attained, however, through long-range grassland programs, reclamation, and range weed control with herbicides, to eliminate leafhopper breeding areas. Planting of resistant crop varieties, proper timing of planting dates, and treating of growing crops with insecticides will also aid in reducing curly top damage.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently released a 21-page circular describing how this insect pest breeds in vast areas of weeds which have grown up on abandoned farmlands and deteriorated range and then moves on, carrying the curly top virus.

According to the circular, there are six major breeding areas in this country, and all but one are west of the Continental Divide. They are: San Joaquin Valley, Calif.; Lower Colorado River; Rio Grande area of New Mexico and Texas; scattered breeding grounds in Colorado, Nevada, and Utah; Lower Snake River Plains of Idaho and Oregon; and Columbia River sections of Oregon and Washington.

A single copy of The Beet Leafhopper, Circular No. 942, can be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a State source).

Note to Editor: You may wish to order copies of the attached publication and hold your release until copies are available in your State.

USDA 2339 (9-54)

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In All States

Dairy Cattle Breeds Described in Revised Farmers' Bulletin by USDA

Distinctive characteristics of the five principal breeds of dairy cattle in the United States are described in a revised farmers' bulletin by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

About 70 percent of all cattle kept for dairy purposes, or about 27 million, are cattle of the 5 major dairy breeds, according to the bulletin. This number includes both registered animals, and grade animals in which the characteristics of one breed predominate. The major breeds are Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian, and Jersey.

The USDA bulletin gives a brief history of the origin of each breed and describes how it differs from others in production and appearance. It explains how cattle are registered and gives the names and addresses of breed associations which maintain "herd books" or registration lists for their respective breeds.

Also discussed are factors to consider in selecting a breed, the basis for judging dairy cattle, and other topics of interest to the beginner and the established breeder of dairy cattle.

A single copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1443 (revised), Dairy Cattle Breeds, can be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a State source).

Note to Editor: You may wish to order copies of the attached publication and hold your release until copies are available in your State.

USDA 2341 (9-54)

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In All States

Survey Indicates Farmland Values Remain Fairly Steady

Values of farmland remained essentially unchanged in three-fourths of the United States during the 4 months ending July 1, 1954, according to a recent survey by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Only seven scattered States showed increases of 2 percent or more, but these were offset by similar declines in seven other States. (See map on cover of attached report for change in your State).

In the Northeast, continued expansion of industry and suburban development were seen as the major factors helping to sustain farmland values.

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Meanwhile, in the Midwest, good prices for hogs in spring and early summer have helped to maintain demand for farms. But buyers are still cautious and selective in their purchases, and present owners are not anxious to sell as long as returns are favorable--resulting in very little sale of land except to settle estates.

The farm real estate market is normally quiet in late spring and early summer in the Southeast, and price changes have been nominal. Parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas in the Southwest were affected similarly by dry weather and reduced cotton acreages.

Nationally the volume of sales was the lowest since 1939, but a slight increase in the number of foreclosures was noted in several States affected by drought. In general, however, the rate continued at the extremely low level of recent years.

As in recent years, farmers bought two-thirds of all farms sold in 1953-54, and nonfarmers bought one-third.

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In All States

Small Wheat Acreages Excepted from Cross-Compliance Requirement for Price Supports

The small wheat producer has been given a "break" in new cross-compliance provisions announced recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to ________________
(local authority)

A farmer who harvests no more than 15 acres of wheat next year will not lose his eligibility for price support on other crops, provided he stays within his allotments on all the other crops for which acreage allotments have been determined for his farm.

The 15-acre-or-less cutoff also applies to wheat marketing quotas and marketing penalties. A farmer may harvest and sell up to 15 acres of wheat without paying a marketing quota penalty. He will not be eligible for price support on wheat, however, unless he harvests no more than his actual allotment.

It should be noted, says __________, that the rules apply to wheat harvested, rather than to wheat planted. New legislation provides that farmers who plant in excess of any crop acreage allotments will be given an opportunity to adjust their acreage before harvest. Any wheat acreage used before maturity for hay, silage, pasture, or as a green-manure or cover crop will not be considered as wheat in determining compliance for wheat marketing quotas or price support.

To be eligible for price support on corn, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, or other crops, a farmer will be required to stay within his acreage allotment on these crops, harvest no more than 15 acres of wheat or his actual allotment--whichever is the greater, and stay within his 1952-53 average acreage of commercial vegetables, potatoes, and dry beans. To be eligible for Agricultural Conservation Program assistance in 1955, he is required to stay within his actual allotments on all the basic crops, including wheat.

USDA 2478 (9-54)

USDA 2479 (9-54)

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In All States

To Be Eligible for ACP Aid, Farmers Must Observe All Acreage Allotments

Farmers who wish to receive assistance from the Agricultural Conservation Program for carrying out conservation measures on their land in 1955 must comply with all acreage allotments which have been assigned to their farms.

This reminder comes from ____________________, who says that the
(local authority)
recent changes in regulations by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which did away with "total acreage allotments", did not affect basic requirements for ACP assistance. To be eligible for participation in this program, a farmer must not exceed any individual crop acreage allotment. This requirement applies even to allotments of less than 15 acres of wheat.

Mr. ____________ draws particular attention to the wheat allotment because of the difference in price support regulations and ACP requirements on this point. A farmer may harvest up to 15 acres of wheat, regardless of his allotment, and still be eligible for price support loans on crops other than wheat, if he has complied with all other allotments. But he will not be eligible for ACP assistance if he harvests more than his actual allotment in any crop, including wheat.

There is no specific requirement on the use of diverted acres as a basis for eligibility under the ACP program. ACP officials report, however, that there will be wide opportunity for much-needed conservation work on these diverted acres. In furtherance of this work, ACP will dedicate a large part of its 1955 funds.

USDA 2479 (9-54)

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In All States

Changes in Acreage Allotment Regulations Explained

"How do recent changes in regulations regarding acreage allotments affect my operations?" is a question frequently asked by ________ farmers
(area)
since the announcement by the U. S. Department of Agriculture that "total acreage allotments" will not be necessary in 1955.

In general, compliance with all individual acreage allotments, or cross-compliance, is still a requirement for price support eligibility on any price-supported crops, explains ______________. The principal change is in the use that can be made of acres diverted from allotment crops. Previously, under the "total acreage allotment" provision, these acres could be used only for hay, pasture, and a limited number of other specific crops. Now they have been freed for any use that a farmer desires, except that he must not exceed his 1952-53 average acreage of commercial vegetables, potatoes, and dry beans if he wishes to obtain price supports on any of his crops.

Another change in the regulations affects small acreages of wheat. Up to 15 acres of wheat may be harvested without affecting eligibility for price support on other crops such as corn, cotton, tobacco, and peanuts. Price support on wheat itself will be surrendered if the acreage harvested exceeds the farm acreage allotment, but there will be no marketing penalties on up to 15 acres.

Though farmers now have much more latitude in the use of acres diverted from allotment crops, it is hoped, says Mr. ___________, that many of these acres will be used in such a way as to promote soil and moisture conservation. Financial assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program for carrying out such measures will be limited to farmers who observe all their crop acreage allotments, including small wheat allotments.

USDA 2481 (9-54)

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In All States

How To Ripen and Use the Kieffer Pear Described in USDA Publication

Information of value to those who grow Kieffer pears or handle them commercially is offered in a new circular prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Kieffer pear, when picked from the tree, is hard, coarse, and tasteless; therefore it is often allowed to go to waste, or at least poorly used. This variety of pear is more generally grown throughout the United States than any other, according to USDA, yet many who grow the fruit do not know how to handle it so that it will soften and ripen to its best quality. The tree is popular in farm and home orchards, especially in the East, because it is vigorous, very productive, and more resistant to blight and insect attack than most varieties.

Many of the objectionable qualities of the fruit may be overcome by proper methods of harvesting, correct methods of storage to promote ripening, and suitable preparation as food. For example, storage for 2 or 3 weeks at 60° to 65° F. causes the fruit to become uniformly soft, and the flavor and texture to improve, for eating fresh as well as for cooking and preserving.

The USDA circular describes methods of picking and handling, length of ripening period, means of safeguarding the fruit against decay, and other items of interest to those who grow Kieffer pears. It also gives the best methods of canning commercially, preserving, drying, pickling, and freezing the Kieffer pear.

A single copy of Circular No. 941, Handling and Commercial Utilization of the Kieffer Pear, can be obtained free by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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In All States

Watershed Program Begins To Move

Continued mounting interest in upstream watershed protection is apparent in the many applications by local groups for aid in the cooperative projects authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act signed August 4th by President Eisenhower, according to _______________ (local authority).

Arrangements are being made, at both the Federal and State levels, to expedite and simplify procedures for getting the watershed improvement job started. Governors of about a fourth of the States have already designated agencies to handle applications. Formal application blanks for use by local watershed groups are being prepared and will soon be available in all States. In the meantime, local organizations may obtain information on how to initiate watershed programs from the State headquarters of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Extension Service in each State.

According to the act, applications for Federal assistance in small watershed protection and flood prevention must be approved first by the Governor of the State, or the agency designated by him, and then by the Soil Conservation Service, acting for the Secretary of Agriculture.

Engineering and watershed planning units of the Soil Conservation Service are now training technicians to help the people with their watershed problems. These technicians make up field parties that will be stationed in the different States as needed. They will make the investigations and studies required for the work programs to be recommended after the watershed association's application has been approved.

(more)

The act specifies that the watersheds must not exceed 250,000 acres. But two or more adjacent watersheds totaling more than 250,000 acres can be combined for treatment, if they are parts of a large watershed and if the local sponsoring organization so desires.

Single structures (dams) are limited to a total water storage capacity of 5,000 acre-feet, and irrigation and drainage facilities must benefit more than a single farm to merit Federal assistance under the act.

Storage for municipal water supplies may be included as part of a watershed work plan, but costs of construction above those necessary for flood prevention must be paid from non-Federal funds.

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In All States

Soil and Water Conservation Loans Now Available Through Farmers Home Administration

Special loans for soil and water conservation are now available to farmers through the Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

This new loan program, made possible through action of the last session of Congress, is described by ________________ (local authority) as designed to help farmers who are unable to obtain credit on reasonable terms from private or cooperative sources for improvement, protection, and proper use of their farmland. The loans are also expected to help farmers and ranchers make good use of land diverted from surplus crops and, in general, to improve their economic circumstances.

Loans may be used, according to ________________, to pay the cash costs of making improvements directly related to soil conservation; water development, conservation, and use; forestation; drainage of farmland; and other related measures. This includes such improvements as construction and repair of terraces, dikes, ponds and tanks, ditches and canals for irrigation and drainage, waterways, and erosion control structures. It also includes sodding, subsoiling, pasture improvement, brush removal, land leveling, basic application of lime and fertilizer, fencing, tree planting, well drilling, and the purchasing of pumps or other irrigation equipment. The practices to be carried out must accord with recommendations of the Extension Service or the Soil Conservation Service.

(more)

Most of the loan funds will be made available from private sources--banks, insurance companies, and others--and insured by the Government. A limited number of direct Government loans will be made where funds from private sources are not available. The Farmers Home Administration will make the loans, collect the payments, and service the applications. Applications for loans should be made through the local county office of the FHA.

Certain nonprofit organizations, such as irrigation and drainage districts, soil conservation districts, and grazing associations, are also eligible to obtain loans under this program. They must be engaged primarily in extending services directly related to soil and water conservation or drainage, and they must be unable to obtain adequate credit elsewhere.

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In All States

Agricultural Attachés To Work With USDA in Developing Foreign Markets

United States agricultural attachés -- stationed at strategic points over the world -- have been returned by Congress to the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. This means they will now devote their primary attention to developing foreign markets for American farm products.

This action was made possible in legislation passed by the 83d Congress and approved by President Eisenhower.

United States agricultural attachés have a long history of service to the farmer. Since its creation in 1862, the United States Department of Agriculture has collected worldwide information to advance the farmer's welfare -- to help him adjust his production and meet foreign marketing needs. Originally, the attachés, who are trained agricultural reporters and our farmers' "eyes and ears" abroad, were known as agricultural commissioners. They received the title of agricultural attachés in 1930, and in 1939 were merged into the United States Foreign Service, under the Department of State.

Now, however, Congress has decided they should be returned to the Department of Agriculture, so that they can give full attention to serving this country's farming interests and be directly responsible to the Secretary of Agriculture.

In the period from 1939 to 1951 there was great world need for United States farm products, and foreign selling was not a great problem. Now, however, agricultural production abroad is back on its feet, which was a major factor in the 30-percent drop in our agricultural exports between 1951 and 1953. Today there is greatly increased need for the services of the agricultural attachés in helping to open up new, much-needed foreign markets.

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Department of Agriculture Will Promote Sale of Farm Surpluses Abroad

The United States Department of Agriculture has taken initial steps to carry out its responsibility, as delegated by Congress, for disposing of up to $700 million in surplus agricultural commodities through foreign trade channels. This positive step has been taken to provide a better chance for the new farm program to operate free of the effect of price-depressing surpluses which have been built up under previous programs.

Another program to be administered by the Foreign Operation Administration provides for disposal of an additional $300 million in surplus agricultural commodities for special projects to be worked out with friendly foreign nations. This will make a total of $1 billion in farm products to be disposed of abroad over the next 3 years.

Under the new legislation, friendly countries can pay for up to $700 million worth of United States agricultural commodities with their own currencies. The United States will use those currencies to develop new markets, strengthen its military defenses, and for other purposes.

This program was established under Public Law 480, known as the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act. Enactment of the legislation followed recognition by Congress of the need for positive action to maintain and expand this country's farm exports.

Lack of currency convertibility has been a major obstacle to expansion of foreign agricultural trade. Many countries have found it difficult to exchange their currency for United States dollars in order to buy American farm products they need. Public Law 480 goes a long way toward overcoming this trade barrier.

(more)

The Department will administer the sale provisions of the program, but will not do any direct selling itself. Its service will be to facilitate sales made by private trade. It will do this by informing American agriculture of possible foreign markets and by providing important services in contacts with other governments where imports are strictly controlled.

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In All States

Incentive Payments on 1955 Wool Expected To Help Stabilize the Sheep Industry

________________ wool growers will have a Federal price incentive
(State)

program on their 1955 wool clip designed to promote stability for the sheep and lamb industry and at the same time safeguard the Nation's future supply of this strategic material, ______________________________ said today.

The program, announced recently by the United States Department of Agriculture, is authorized by the National Wool Act of 1954, passed by the Congress this past summer and signed into law by President Eisenhower last July 10. The act provides for an incentive price to help encourage United States shorn wool production toward a 300-million pound annual goal in the interest of national security. Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Committees will administer the program at the county level.

The program will operate to encourage better wool production and marketing practices while helping to stabilize the industry. If the average shorn wool price received by producers for the 1955 clip falls below the incentive price of 62 cents a pound, each wool producer will be eligible to receive a payment based on his production and the price he received for his wool in the market place. The more the producer gets in the market place for his wool--the larger his incentive payment will be. This will encourage producers to do the best possible production and marketing job.

(more)

A distinct advantage of the new program is that United States-produced wool will move directly into consumption in the open market instead of going into Government storage, yet at the same time producers will be assured a fair return for their wool through an incentive payment. Another feature of the program is that funds for making the payments will come from tariff receipts on foreign wool imported into the United States. This means in protecting wool producers' income through the incentive program no increase will be made in the cost of woolen goods to consumers.

Many leaders of wool producer groups believe that a "self-help" feature included in the Wool Act holds great promise for assisting the industry to work out many of its problems. This "self-help" feature authorizes a marketing agreement through which producers could contribute to a fund to advertise and promote the advantages of wool, lamb, and the industry's other products. The agreement would need approval by producers.

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To All States

Direct Farm-to-Consumer Sales Among Topics Discussed in New Yearbook of Agriculture

Many a farmer, noting the difference between the prices he receives for his products and the prices for which they sell at retail, has at some time considered the possibility of selling some or all of his products directly to consumers.

One chapter in the Yearbook of Agriculture for 1954 "Marketing," deals with the various methods by which a farmer can dispose of his goods. A section on direct sales from farm to consumer gives an insight into all the factors that should be considered before a farmer undertakes to market his own goods. It also gives concrete information about some tested ingredients to success in such a venture.

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Among methods most frequently used by farmers--such as establishing a delivery route, or filling mail and express orders--the most practical seems to be the roadside stand located on or near the farm and operated on a regular schedule.

Two important factors in volume of sales at roadside markets are location and type of facilities. Highest-volume markets are located on the right side of the highway entering a city or town of at least 5,000 population. Preferably they are situated on a heavily traveled State or National highway from 3 to 12 miles from a town. A chart based on studies of experience in three different States, also shows a relationship between volume of sales and type of facilities, with an advantage enjoyed by those using some type of permanent or semipermanent building. Another important aid is a convenient and safe parking area with space enough for at least 14 cars.

Persons staffing the market are an important influence in customer satisfaction, upon which much of the success of the undertaking depends. These persons, it is suggested, need some experience in handling and displaying the produce and in dealing with the public.

The Yearbook of Agriculture is distributed mainly by Members of the Congress. It is also sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. "Marketing" sells for $1.75 a copy.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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In All States

Cost Sharing Provided for Cover Crops

Cost sharing is one of the tools provided by the United States Department of Agriculture to aid farmers and ranchers in the establishment of a permanent sod cover as a means of conserving soil and water.

Where such a practice is urgently needed to check erosion and restore the productivity of the land, farmers and ranchers may request cost sharing under provisions of the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program.

Such requests are to be made through the local County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office, says ________________, chairman of the ____________________ County ASC Committee.

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In the initial establishment of a permanent sod cover, cost sharing is provided on seed, lime, and commercial fertilizers where they are necessary, as well as the cost of preparing the seedbed. Under the 1955 program Package Practice, the practice may be started in 1955 and finished the next year.

In general ACP will provide about half the "out-of-pocket" cost involved in obtaining a good vegetative cover. To be eligible for cost sharing, however, the farmer or rancher must first make a request for it. Then, if approved, the practice must be carried out in accordance with established standards.

Technical advice on appropriate land use and suggestions on adapted varieties of grass and legumes will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service and Extension agents and specialists. Information about cost sharing under ACP is available at the County ASC office, or from the county extension agent.

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In All States

Better Method Leads to Economy in Shipping Tomatoes by Rail

A better method of shipping tomatoes by rail has been developed through research carried out cooperatively by the United States Department of Agriculture and the California Agricultural Experiment Station. The result should be considerable economy in moving tomatoes from producer to the family table, ________________ said today.

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The key to benefits derived from the improved system is a new refrigeration technique which keeps the tomatoes at temperatures ranging from 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, a temperature considerably higher than currently used in shipment. Tried out in successful shipments of several hundred commercial cars of tomatoes from California to eastern markets, the same principle can be applied to refrigerated shipments of tomatoes over shorter distances and in any part of the country, according to Mr. ________________.

Test shipments showed that the new method leads to an increased number of marketable tomatoes and a shorter and more economical ripening period at the point of destination. It also eliminates decay resulting from chilling injury in transit caused by temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. And, finally, there is a saving in the cost of icing refrigerator cars.

Under the new method, ventilators of refrigerator cars are kept closed all during transit--something many shippers fear to do, but which the tests have proved cause no harm. Next, the icing of the cars is limited to the amount needed to reduce the temperature of the tomatoes to 55-65 degrees F. Finally, additional in-transit icing is limited to the amount necessary to maintain this temperature. This usually means no further icing for a period of 6 days during warm weather, or 9 to 11 days during cool or cold weather.

The following icing schedule was used successfully for transcontinental shipments.

Average fruit temperature when loaded	Initial ice per bunker
80-90° F	Full capacity - 2-3/4 tons
75-80°	2 tons
65-75°	1-1/2 tons
60-65°	1 ton
55-60°	1/2 ton
50-55°	None

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In Ala., Ark., Colo., Ga., Kans., La., Miss., Mo., Nev.,
N. Mex., N. C., Okla., S. C., Tenn., Tex., Utah, Wyo.

Drought Emergency Assistance Available to Farmers in ____________________ County or Area

County Agent ____________________ today reminded farmers and ranchers that several types of drought emergency assistance are available to eligible persons in ____________ county. The county was recently designated a drought disaster area by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

Types of assistance include an emergency feed grain program, special Farmers Home Administration loans, and a hay program. In addition, available 1954 Agricultural Conservation Program funds may be used for emergency practices on a cost-share basis with farmers in drought-stricken areas, and where 1954 funds are insufficient, the ACP committees have authority to open the 1955 program.

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Under provisions of the feed grain program, eligible farmers and ranchers may obtain certain feed from their regular dealer at a reduced cost of $1 per hundredweight below the local price. The hay program provides half the actual average transportation cost, or $10 per ton, whichever is smaller, where hay must be brought into drought areas. Several types of emergency FHA loans are available to those who meet eligibility requirements. (One such loan -- the special livestock loan for farmers and ranchers who need credit to continue their cattle, sheep, or goat operations -- is available in any State without regard to drought disaster designations.)

(more)

For details, interested persons should consult their county FHA committee, their county Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Committee, or their county agent. (Eligibility for emergency loans and to participate in the emergency hay and feed grain programs in drought-designated areas is determined by FHA county committees.)

County Agent ____________________ today said that as of mid-October, drought-designated counties numbered 869 in 15 States. The States, with the number of counties or parishes designated therein, include: Alabama, 56; Arkansas, 68; Colorado, 28; Georgia, 124; Kansas, 41; Louisiana, 28, Mississippi, 58; Missouri, 81; New Mexico, 24; North Carolina, 30; Oklahoma, 73; South Carolina, 46; Tennessee, 85; Texas, 110; and Wyoming, 17.

In order to take part in the hay program, governors of States must sign agreements with the USDA. All 15 drought-designated States currently have signed such contracts and are participating in the hay program.

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For Ala., Ark., Colo., Ga., Kans., La., Mo., Miss., Nev., N. Mex.,
N. C., Okla., S. C., Tenn., Tex., Utah, and Wyo.

Grain Supplies Moving in Volume Under Emergency Drought Program

Supplemental feed grain supplies are now moving in volume to farmers and ranchers in the more serious drought areas, under the Department of Agriculture's emergency aid program, (name of local authority) reported this week.

By the middle of October, more than 860 counties in 15 States had been designated as official disaster areas where the emergency program aid is available. ________________ County is among the designated areas, and eligible farmers and ranchers in the county can get feed grains at special reduced prices under the program.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farmers and ranchers who need supplemental grain supplies to offset the loss of hay and pasture crops, and in order to carry through their foundation herds of cattle, sheep, and goat breeding stock, are eligible to receive the special feed grain assistance.

(Local man) reminds farmers that applications under the program are made to the Farmers Home Administration Committee. When their eligibility is approved, they get special "purchase orders" from the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee (ASC). The farmer then buys feed grains, or mixed feed containing the feed grain, from any local dealer he wishes. He pays the regular local price, using his purchase order to cover one dollar per hundredweight of his bill. In effect, his out-of-pocket cost is one dollar a hundredweight below the prevailing local feed prices.

(more)

Farmers and ranchers do not get grain directly from the Commodity Credit Corporation. They buy from regular dealers. The feed dealers in turn get replacement stocks from CCC, using certificates in the value of the purchase orders they have accepted from farmers to pay for the CCC grain. This plan assures orderly movement of the grain, through the normal channels with which the farmer deals regularly.

The sales prices to farmers are determined on the normal basis of the average supply costs and other factors which enter into the local market. These sales prices to farmers should not be based on the possibly slightly higher prices at which dealers may get a small part of their replacement supplies from CCC stocks at terminal points. The average of the dealer's supply costs should be the basis for sales prices, just as under normal operating conditions.

Eligibility under the emergency feed grain program does not extend to commercial livestock feeders or hog and poultry producers, who normally buy the bulk of their feed supplies anyway. The special drought-aid program is designed primarily to help those farmers and ranchers who have lost their supplies of hay and forage, and are therefore forced to turn to unusual, outside sources for supplemental supplies.

Note to Editors: See attached list for counties in your State.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Special Program To Increase Milk Consumption by Schoolchildren

Many schoolchildren will be drinking more milk during this school year, says ____________________ (local authority), owing to a plan carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to increase consumption of fluid milk in schools.

The plan was made possible when Congress this year authorized use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds, not to exceed $50,000,000 annually, to boost milk consumption and expand dairy markets.

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Nationally, the program is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service, the agency which operates the national school lunch program. Within States it is handled through State educational agencies. Schools will be reimbursed for a portion of the cost of the increased amount of milk served to children. Milk is bought from local dairies.

To determine how much consumption has been increased, a "base" is established for each participating school, representing its normal consumption of milk. Then the school is reimbursed for part of the cost of all milk served in addition to the base. To participate in this program, a school must operate its food and milk service on a nonprofit basis.

The program allows local school officials wide authority in its application. Milk may be served at any time during the schoolday--at recess, or even before classes begin in the morning. Schools that have not been serving milk have unlimited opportunity to make milk available to their children. Schools already serving milk can increase the size of servings, and a child may drink as many servings as he wants.

The increased consumption will mean immediate and long-range benefits both to the dairy industry and to schoolchildren, according to _______________, because milk drinking promotes good health during childhood and a firm health foundation for later years.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

Costs Involved in Marketing Food Analyzed in USDA Leaflet for Farmers and Consumers

What are the costs involved in marketing food products, and how and why do these costs vary among different foods? These questions are answered for the farmer and the consumer in a newly revised leaflet by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, entitled "The Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Food Dollar."

The Department of Agriculture is engaged in a continuing program of marketing research and service work. This program includes measuring marketing costs, finding out what items contribute to these costs, looking for ways to improve marketing efficiency, and passing on results of these studies to marketing agencies, farmers, and consumers.

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The Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Food Dollar sums up information on marketing costs for food products in 1953 and discusses some things that have brought about changes and trends in these costs.

A single free copy of The Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Food Dollar, Leaflet No. 123, can be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a local source).

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Note to Extension Editors: You may wish to order a supply of the attached leaflet and hold this release until copies are available in your State.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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All States

Change in Agricultural Conservation Program Explained

In recognition that conservation on a particular field or farm may require several steps before a complete conservation job is accomplished, the Agricultural Conservation Program has been changed so that a farmer may now have more than one year in which to complete a multiple-unit or "package" practice, says ______________________________.
(ASC chairman or county agent)

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This package idea allows a farmer to budget his time, labor, equipment, his own share of the cost, and the ACP cost-share over more than one year where it is desirable, according to ______________

An example of a package, or multiple-unit, practice is the establishment of a forest stand for erosion control, watershed protection, or for timber. This may include establishing a shelterbelt or farm woodlot. To carry out this practice a farmer may need to summer-fallow one year, plant trees the second year, and cultivate for one or more years to get the stand established.

Establishing a drainage system is another example of a package practice. The right-of-way has to be cleared first, which could be done one year, with the actual construction of the drainage ditches being done the next year, followed by any needed seedings.

Outlets for waterways have to be established before terraces are constructed. So outlets could be prepared one year and the terraces constructed the following year. This is also considered a package practice.

The Agricultural Conservation Program encourages measures for the conservation of water and soil resources in the public interest. It is

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administered locally by Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committees, and all farmers are eligible to request cost-sharing for conservation measures which have been approved as being in the interest of all the people.

Any interested farmer should consult his local ASC committee for information on how ACP can help him meet his conservation problems, ______________________ emphasized.

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In All States

Exports of U. S. Farm Products Expected To Increase

Present prospects appear favorable for increased sale of United States farm products abroad. An increase of as much as 10 percent in exports of farm products to other countries during the last half of 1954 and the first half of 1955 is held a possibility by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. During the preceding year exports of farm products improved 4 percent over the low postwar level of 1952-53.

If government surplus disposal programs are successful, the increase in farm exports may even exceed the 10 percent expected this year, according to FAS. But over the long run, volume of exports will depend more upon high quality and attractive prices in products offered, and upon our ability to meet exacting buyer preferences overseas in an era of competitive foreign marketing. A product selected to meet demand here at home is not necessarily the preferred type by foreign standards.

Through its service of reporting on foreign markets and with the help of United States agricultural attaches stationed in 40 foreign countries, the Foreign Agricultural Service is prepared to help private traders meet the requirements of prospective overseas customers.

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Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

Fillers

Consumers spend about 25 percent of their disposable incomes for food, according to estimates by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Domestic demand for farm products is expected to be about the same in 1955 as in 1954.

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Despite serious drought in some parts of the country, total farm output in 1954 is expected to be only about 2 percent below the highest record.

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Statistical samples indicate that as of April 1, 1954, there were 21.9 million people living on farms in the United States. In 1951 there were 24.2 million. This is a reduction of close to 10 percent in 3 years.

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Production of livestock and livestock products is expected to be at least as large next year as this year, with prospects for a continued high level of demand.

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Crop output this year is down about 5 percent from 1953, largely because of reduced production of cotton and wheat.

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In All States

Fillers

Butter Purchases Rise

Butter purchases by American households rose to over 60 million pounds during a 4-week period in September, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This represented an increase of more than 5 million pounds, or 10 percent, over purchases in the comparable period in September 1953.

For the period April-September 1954, butter purchases for household use were almost 7 percent larger than in the corresponding period a year earlier.

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Soybean Production at Alltime High

World production of soybeans is expected to reach an alltime high in 1954. A preliminary forecast by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, places the crop at 735 million bushels, a 14-percent increase from the 1953 production estimated at 645 million bushels.

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Over three-fourths of the anticipated 90-million-bushel increase will come from the United States, and an estimated one-fifth from China and Manchuria. Output in most of the secondary producing areas for which reliable data are available also increased from last year.

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USDA Research Leads to Savings in Shipping Cauliflower

A new packing method for shipping California cauliflower to eastern markets is one of the end products of current research initiated by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and aimed at cutting farm-product marketing costs.

____________________ (Local authority) says that the new cauliflower packing method developed by the USDA results in savings of over a third in container costs and refrigeration charges. It consists of closely trimming the cauliflower heads and packing them two layers deep in broccoli crates. This does away with the standard cauliflower container which accommodates only a single layer of untrimmed heads.

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Soft paper pads placed between layers of heads reduce bruising to less than the amount experienced in standard-type containers, despite the reduced number of protective outer leaves left by trimming.

A good deal of publicity has been given to the fact that the marketing process now absorbs, on the average, more than 50 percent of the retail price of farm products. According to ____________, research carried out under authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 leads to methods for improving the efficiency of marketing so that it will include a maximum of service and quality maintenance at the least possible cost.

The work on shipping cauliflower was initiated by the USDA, but the Western Growers Association participated in the research. The results provide an answer to a problem growing out of increasing costs for containers, freight, refrigeration, and labor during a period when wholesale cauliflower prices were declining on the New York market. The situation at times became so acute that California cauliflower was abandoned in the field.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Secretary Benson Draws Attention to Losses in Marketing Farm Products

One-fourth of the value of strawberries shipped to market is lost through decay--one-fifth of the value of apples--one-sixth of the value of tangerines--one-seventh of the value of oranges--one-eighth of the value of grapes and grapefruit. The Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, called attention to these facts in a recent speech to the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, meeting in Washington, D. C.

For vegetables, the situation is about the same, said Secretary Benson. About one-fourth of the value of lettuce, peppers, and onions is lost in marketing--about one-fifth of the tomatoes, celery, and sweetpotatoes.

Farmers could help to curtail these losses by taking greater care in gathering the crop, by promptness in bringing it to processors and shippers, by better preparation for shipment, by the use of tested improved methods, Mr. Benson indicated.

An expanding program of marketing research aimed at developing a vast new store of useful information and dollar-saving techniques designed to improve and maintain quality, expand outlets, and increase marketing efficiency for agricultural products is being carried out by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the land-grant colleges and other public and private agencies.

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Note to the Editor: You may wish to report some marketing research activity in your State as a part of this release.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

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USDA Develops Method To Speed the Ripening of Tomatoes in Storage

Marketing research by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with State and private institutions, is leading to the development of many new techniques for cutting costs in marketing farm products and maintaining their quality better. An example of this, described by ____________________, is a new method to speed the ripening of tomatoes by exposing them to low concentrations of ethylene gas.

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Briefly, the method consists of gassing tomatoes with 1 part ethylene to 5,000 parts air daily, for 4 to 5 days, in closed storage with temperatures held at 68 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. To prevent carbon dioxide accumulation, the storage room is ventilated a few minutes before the daily applications of gas.

Fifty percent of green tomatoes so treated ripen enough for prepackaging in 4 to 5 days, as compared with 6 to 7 days required for the same amount of ripening without use of ethylene gas. The new method should be of considerable importance to packagers of tomatoes during periods of active markets or when ripening-room space is limited, says ____________________.

Treated tomatoes color evenly to the center and are equal or superior in flavor, color, and texture to similar fruit ripened by normal methods. Banana ripening rooms equipped for ethylene may be used to ripen tomatoes.

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In All States

New Method of Slaughtering Turkeys May Cut Losses Due to Downgrading

A new method of turkey slaughter has been tested by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and found to have good commercial possibilities, combining humaneness with better protection of the bird's quality. The new process, reported by ____________________ (local authority), calls for gassing the birds with carbon dioxide, and thereby rendering them unconscious before they enter the processing line.

Further research is under way, according to ____________, to develop methods which will make this process practical for use in commercial plants.

The proper concentration of gas must be worked out very carefully before the method can be used successfully on a large scale, he explained. Too much gas kills a bird before it travels the slaughter line, and too little gas takes so long to produce unconsciousness that the birds may absorb too much carbon dioxide, which also kills them prematurely. Exact concentrations of gas and length of exposure time must be worked out for different varieties and weights, and also for male and female birds.

Loss of grade in processed turkeys is a serious economic concern of turkey processors, Mr. _______________ stated. Bruises, dislocated and broken bones, as well as torn and abrased skin result from struggles of the excitable birds during removal from coops, shackling, and slaughtering. If it should become possible to immobilize them before shackling, or even before they are removed from coops, handling problems would be minimized and the number of downgraded carcasses reduced. The carbon dioxide treatment caused no harmful effects.

This research is one of many projects carried out by USDA and the State land-grant colleges in cooperation with private agencies to discover more efficient methods of marketing farm products, said Mr. _______________.

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In All States

Egg Promotion Campaign Scheduled for January

In cooperation with the Poultry Industry's January Egg Month, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, with the cooperation of the State land-grant colleges, will conduct a special Plentiful Foods Program on eggs. The Department's (or State) marketing specialists say that the supply of eggs will be at record heights during the month of January.

The joint industry-government campaign will draw attention to the important food qualities at low cost available in eggs. It will also offer new ideas for using more eggs in the diet. This should assist greatly in moving the larger supplies of eggs to consumers through regular channels of trade, says ______________________.
(State or local authority)

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In All States

Farm Fillers

Eggs are valued as a food because they are rich in proteins, vitamins, and minerals. Like other important protein foods, eggs should be handled properly to protect their quality. This means cooling promptly after they are gathered from the nest and keeping them under refrigeration until they are to be used.

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Refrigeration temperatures for maintaining egg quality for short periods range from about 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit, with humidity about 85 percent. A lower temperature is required when eggs are to be stored for several weeks or months.

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Eggs drop in quality in a few days at 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and at higher temperatures more rapidly. Therefore eggs displayed on a counter at the market, held in unrefrigerated storerooms, transported in a hot truck, or left in a hot car or kitchen for several hours, will lose quality.

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Grade AA and Grade A eggs are of top quality with a thick white and a firm high yolk. Their delicate flavor makes them especially desirable for poaching, frying, and cooking in the shell.

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Grade B and Grade C eggs are also good eggs, though the white is thin and the rather flat yolk may break easily. They are good for scrambling, to use in baking, in thickening sauces and salad dressings, and to combine with other foods such as cream sauce, tomatoes, cheese, or onions.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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In All States

Fillers

Loans for soil and water conservation are now available through the Farmers Home Administration to United States farmers who are unable to obtain the necessary credit on reasonable terms from private sources. A leaflet outlining details about who may borrow, for what purposes loans are made, how to apply for a loan, etc., may be obtained free from the Farmers Home Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for "Loans for Soil and Water Conservation," PA No. 253.

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A new kind of dehydrated mashed potato is in the course of development by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Eastern Utilization Research Laboratory at Philadelphia, Pa. Called "potato flakes," the new product can be rapidly converted to mashed potato by addition of either hot water or milk. After whipping, the product has the texture and color of good freshly mashed potatoes. The flavor, reported to be delicious, somewhat resembles that of baked potato.

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In All States

Mexican, U. S. Authorities Cooperate To Control Fruit Pest

Scientists from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mexico, and the Universities of California and Arizona are cooperating in a program aimed at eradicating the Mexican fruit fly from northwest Mexico and southern California, where it appeared recently for the first time. The fly has long been a pest in other parts of Mexico and in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Control methods, until recently, had kept it confined to these areas.

The Mexican fruit fly attacks both oranges and grapefruit, but prefers grapefruit. In its Mexican habitat it also attacks fruits such as peaches, pears, and apples. This characteristic increases its potential threat to fruit growers in California and elsewhere in the United States, especially if the insect can adapt itself to widely different climatic conditions, say the Department of Agriculture specialists (or other source).

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First evidence that the insect had spread into southern California appeared when a live female fly was trapped last August in San Ysidro, San Diego County, near the Mexican city of Tijuana. Previously, several flies were trapped in nearby Mexico. Shortly thereafter part of San Diego County was placed under quarantine, and no fruit can be moved from this area without inspection and approval by California plant pest control officials. Meanwhile, a regular triweekly spray program is being carried out on both sides of the border in the hope that flies already present can be wiped out and further invasion prevented.

The mature Mexican fruit fly is considerably larger than the housefly. The female deposits eggs beneath the rind of the host fruit. Larvae hatched from these egg clusters do the damage, feeding upon the fruit for about 6 weeks. Infested fruit shows premature color and breaks down internally as the growing larvae feed.

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In All States

Fillers

Twelve years of testing by the U. S. Department of Agriculture has proved that phenothiazine mixed with salt and fed continuously on a free-choice basis is both safe and effective in controlling internal parasites (worms) in sheep on pasture. In larger doses the same chemical is effective for cleansing sheep and other livestock already heavily infested with internal parasites.

In 1939--the first year it was commercially available--900 pounds of phenothiazine were used in the United States. By 1944 consumption had jumped to nearly 3,000,000 pounds. It has now leveled off at a rate of nearly 5,000,000 pounds annually, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Federal funds for agricultural research this year have been increased about 10 million dollars over last year's funds. Of this, 5.7 million was added to Federal-grant funds to States and Territories.

U. S. plant breeders still find many useful plants in other countries. For use in breeding improved cereal crops alone, nearly 12,000 plants have been introduced from abroad since 1948.

Addition of certain types of organic matter to the soil has been found to be effective in reducing some soil-borne plant diseases. Future research may reveal some definite relationships between soil composition and plant disease.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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For States East of the Mississippi

Irrigation Declared No Cure-All for Low Crop Yields

Have you about decided to "beat the drought" and install a sprinkler irrigation system? If so, it would be wise to talk it over first with your county agent or some other impartial adviser.

"Irrigation is no cure-all for poor crops," warns ______________________
State or local authority
(or Tyler H. Quackenbush, irrigation engineer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service).

Installation of numerous irrigation systems in the Eastern States in recent years indicates that many farmers may be turning to water as a kind of crop insurance against drier-than-normal weather. This may lead to disappointments and poor returns on money invested, according to ______________, because, in normally humid areas, irrigation is most likely to be profitable when it is adopted as a final step in a complete soil and water management program on a farm.

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It is true, ________________ says, that irrigation can bring about spectacular increases in yields, but this is so only where other conditions are favorable and water is the chief factor in limiting the size of crops.

Irrigation will do nothing to solve problems of erosion--it may actually increase the runoff, ________________ points out. It may aggravate problems on poorly drained soils or create drainage problems on formerly well drained soils. Likewise, irrigation alone will do nothing to improve fertility or poor soil conditions. All these things, as well as lack of water, normally limit crop production, says _____________________.

USDA 3076 (12-54)

Studies conducted at Ithaca, N. Y., by the Department of Agriculture and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station in 1950, 1951, and 1952 showed that forage yields on nonirrigated "high fertilization" plots were consistently greater than yields on irrigated "normal fertilization" plots. This is an indication that in some cases good farm management alone would increase yields more than irrigation coupled with poor management.

"The advice of a soils specialist can help you to determine whether an irrigation system would be profitable on your particular farm," says

______________________________.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

New Food Preserving Process Combines Freezing and Drying

Dehydrofrozen apples, apricots, peas, and pimientos have recently made their debut in the market place. Other fruits and vegetables prepared by this new process will undoubtedly follow. At present, these new products are going to large-scale food users, but they may before long be packaged for home use.

Dehydrofreezing, already in use by six commercial firms, with more showing interest, was developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Western Regional Research Laboratory at Albany, Calif.

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A combination of freezing and partial dehydration, the new process offers several advantages over more conventional methods of food preparation. Dehydrofrozen fruits and vegetables weigh less and take less space than the same quantity of food prepared by ordinary freezing. In addition, flavor and texture are far more "natural" than those resulting from conventional dehydration, and in some cases superior even to the fresh frozen product.

Ordinary freezing, it is explained, tends to rupture cellular structure. That, according to the USDA food preservation experts, explains why many fruits and vegetables break down somewhat in texture after freezing and thawing. Partial dehydration helps the cells to stand up better under the freezing process. On the other hand, in the partial-drying step temperatures are kept low enough to prevent flavor changes characteristic of ordinary dried foods.

Reconstitution of dehydrofrozen products is simple. They can be cooked directly or soaked in water.

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Ala., Ariz., Ark., Calif., Fla., Ga., Idaho, La., Md., Miss., Mont.,
N. C., Nev., N. M., Okla., Ore., S. C., Tenn., Tex., Utah, Va., Wash., Wy.

New Test Makes Possible Easier Diagnosis of Anaplasmosis, Cattle Disease

A practical test to identify animal carriers of the costly cattle disease, anaplasmosis, is the result of recent research work by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the University of Maryland and several other State experimental laboratories.

The test, according to USDA scientists, will make it possible to conduct extensive farm-scale surveys looking toward the development of a control program for anaplasmosis. Within a year or two it may be possible to determine whether the disease can be eradicated in a practical way.

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The test is based upon the use of an antigen which shows whether the blood of a suspected animal contains antibodies, substances created by the blood to combat the disease. It is proving 98 percent accurate in spotting known carriers of the disease.

Unchecked in this country for a quarter century, anaplasmosis costs about $10 million annually in mortality and unthriftiness of cattle. Like Texas fever--a serious cattle disease eradicated some years ago--anaplasmosis is cuased by a protozoan parasite that destroys red blood corpuscles. Symptoms are high fever, anemia, weight loss, termination of milk flow, and other serious disturbances, sometimes death.

Anaplasmosis is apparently harmless to man. Cattle often recover from the disease and live normal lives, but they continue as carriers of the disease organism. Meat of cattle infected with anaplasmosis is safe human food.

USDA 3085 (12-54)

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In Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon,
Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Grassland Productivity Increased by Strip Planting Alfalfa

Strip planting with alfalfa is an effective means of restoring and improving seeded grasslands in some low-rainfall areas of the West. This has been shown by research carried out cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming State Experiment Station at Cheyenne.

Plowing and seeding alfalfa in 42-inch strips between strips of sod 6 to 8 inches wide boosted forage yield 83 percent in an area where average annual rainfall is about 15 inches.

Other methods of mechanical renovation--disking, ripping the sod with spike-toothed implements to depths of 5 and 8 inches, and mold-board plowing without seeding--were also tried. The effects were compared in 1950, 1951, and 1952 on pastures that had been seeded in 1941 to crested wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, or Russian wildrye.

Only ripping the sod to a depth of 5 inches failed to give some increase in forage production, but strip planting with alfalfa produced the best results.

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The average untreated check yielded 612 pounds of annually harvested forage. Comparable production from disking was 712 pounds; ripping to a depth of 5 inches, 607; ripping to 8 inches, 709; and plowing rows, 805. Row-plowing and seeding alfalfa sent annual average production up to 1,119 pounds.

Other legumes were less effective. When sweetclover was seeded, production was 779 pounds, and a sweetclover-alfalfa combination yielded 994 pounds.

With western wheatgrass, ripping the sod to both 5 and 8 inches and seeding sweetclover all caused drops in forage productivity.

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USDA 3109 (12-54)

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In All States

Another Important Strawberry Pest Yields to Control Measures

More productive strawberry plants and higher quality fruit are in the offing with another victory over an important strawberry pest in sight.

A hot-water plant treatment to control nematodes has been developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It should be in wide use by nurserymen within another year, reports ____________________.
(local authority)

This, together with available stocks of virus-free strawberry plants made possible by previous research, will open the way to greater profits in strawberry culture, says Mr. ____________________.

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Several kinds of microscopic nematodes (sometimes called eelworms) attack strawberries. They destroy roots, buds, crowns, stems, flowers, runners, and runner plants. As with viruses, they have been found in almost all cultivated strawberries, and have probably been around since the beginning of strawberry culture. Control of the two pests will increase the vigor and length of life of strawberry plants and increase the size, yield, and quality of fruit.

Nurserymen should be able to supply growers with virus-free, nematode-free strawberries of a satisfactory variety by 1956, according to ____________. Limited stocks of these plants--that is, strawberries free of viruses and relatively free of nematodes--will be available this winter.

Fumigation of the soil before planting hot-water treated strawberries will give relative freedom from nematodes. Rigorous control of aphids is recommended to keep plants virus-free, reminds ______________________.

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In All States

Government-Industry Cooperation Led to Control of X-Disease of Cattle

No new cases of hyperkeratosis (X-disease) of cattle have been reported to the U. S. Department of Agriculture during 1954. This would indicate that the disease has been practically eradicated, or at least reduced to such an extent that it is no longer important to the livestock industry, reports Dr. A. M. Lee, of the Department's Agricultural Research Service (or a local authority).

Successful control of this costly livestock problem was made possible through government-industry cooperation, according to Dr. Lee.

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A Federal-State research project, carried out between 1949 and 1953 by scientists of 18 States* and coordinated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, revealed that the principal cause of hyperkeratosis was highly chlorinated naphthalene. This chemical was frequently added to lubricating oils and greases to give them "body." Some found its way to farms and was absorbed by animals licking machinery or used crankcase oil. More found its way into animal feeds through greases used in lubricating feed-processing machinery.

Credit for eliminating the threat, once the cause was known, says Dr. Lee, should go to the oil companies, manufacturers of petroleum products, and animal feed processors. These companies acted in response to a Department of Agriculture request to cease using chlorinated naphthalene in petroleum products used on farms or in food-processing plants.

"The record speaks for their excellent cooperation," says Dr. Lee.

Hyperkeratosis--an often fatal disorder, especially to calves--was so named because a characteristic leathery thickening of the skin accompanies the disease.

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* Ala., Colo., Conn., Ga., Ill., Ind., Kan., Mich., Mont., Neb., N. J., N. Y., N. D., Pa., Tenn., Tex., Va., Wis.

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In All States

Fillers

Brucellosis is the most serious, widespread, and expensive disease of livestock in the United States. The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that it is causing annual losses to the cattle industry of $58 million a year, through reduced milk output, fewer live calves, and replacement of infected cows.

Tests during the past year indicate that incidence of the disease has now been reduced to a point where a concerted effort can wipe it out.

To this end, an active eradication program is being carried out by State and Federal veterinarians under written agreements between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and State departments of agriculture. Such agreements have been made with 46 States and 2 Territories.

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A process developed by U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists has made possible a new, improved applesauce. An essence made from byproduct peels and cores and added to the sauce produces a tangy, fresh flavor that lasts through months of storage.

Commercial production of this improved applesauce is expected after a satisfactory method is found for adding the essence in processing. The product will be slightly higher priced than ordinary applesauce.

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All States except Nev., Wyo., Colo., N. Mex., Tex., Okla., Kans., Mo.,
Miss., Ark., Ala., Ga., S. C., and Tenn.

Still Time to Qualify for 1954-Crop Corn Loans

Farmers who wish to put their 1954 crop corn under a Commodity Credit Corporation loan still have plenty of time to get their corn and their storage in condition to qualify, ____________ reminds local producers.

May 31, 1955, has been set as the final date when 1954 corn may be put under loan, though this date could be set up a little if weather conditions next spring endanger the grain, ________ explains. Applications for loans should be submitted to the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees.

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To qualify for a loan, corn must grade No. 3 or better, or No. 4 on the basis of test weight only. Both ear and shelled corn are eligible for loans. Ear corn placed under price-support loan may have a moisture content of not more than 20.5 percent if placed under loans through February 1955. The maximum moisture content permitted decreases to 19 percent during March; to 17.5 percent during April; and 15.5 percent during May. Any 1954 shelled corn may have a moisture content of not more than 13.5 percent, whether stored on the farm or in a commercial grain warehouse. Corn grading weevily is not eligible for a loan.

Structures in which corn is stored on the farm must be of such permanent and substantial construction as to afford safe storage for the grain. Before a loan is granted, the county ASC office inspects the storage structure as well as the corn, with particular attention to the roof, ventilation, protection of grain from rodents and birds, location,

(more)

and general condition of the bin or crib.

Plans for building satisfactory storage structures; recommended drying and ventilating equipment; and best methods for controlling grain pests are available from ______________________.
(County agent, or other source)

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All States

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January 31, 1955, is the closing date for Commodity Credit Corporation loans and purchase agreements on 1954 crops of wheat, rye, rice, barley, oats, grain sorghums, peanuts, soybeans, dry edible beans, and cottonseed. ____________________ (local authority) suggests that farmers who have postponed taking out a price-support loan or purchase agreement on any of these crops may well make an early visit to their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) office. Loans and purchase agreements on 1954-crop corn will be available through May 31, 1955.

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During the 12-month period ending in September 1954, the United States exported 13 million standard packages of fresh vegetables and nearly 12 million pounds of frozen vegetables, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The most important buyer of our vegetable exports was Canada, with Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela following in the order of their importance.

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In All States

Meaning of Relaxed Regulations on Crop Allotments Spelled Out

Questions are coming in now from farmers who want to know how the dropping of cross-compliance requirements for price support eligibility, announced recently by the Department of Agriculture, will affect their particular operations.

"Briefly, this is how the new regulations apply to you," explains

______________________________ for the benefit of __________________ farmers.
(county agent or ASC chairman) (area)
"If you expect to put your 1955 corn crop under price support loan, you will need to stay within your corn acreage allotment, if there is one for your farm. The same is true for any other allotment crop for which you might want a Commodity Credit Corporation loan and purchase agreement. But don't worry about cross-compliance between allotment crops. You will not need to comply with all allotments for your farm in order to get a loan on any one crop."

If a marketing quota has been voted into effect---as it was last year for wheat, cotton, peanuts, and major types of tobacco---quota penalties will also apply if allotted acreage for a crop is exceeded. The regulation establishing quota penalties, as well as the one prohibiting price support for any individual crop on which the farm acreage allotment is exceeded, is provided for by law and cannot be changed by the Department of Agriculture, explains Mr. __________.

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Another regulation established by law applies to Agricultural Conservation Program cost-sharing. Compliance with all crop allotments which apply to a farm is a requirement for eligibility for ACP assistance in carrying out conservation measures. Therefore, if you want ACP assistance in carrying out a conservation plan for your farm, you will need to stay within acreage allotments for all crops on your farm, says Mr. ____________________.

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In All States

No Limitations on Acreage of Commercial Vegetables and Potatoes in 1955

Previously proposed limitations on the production of commercial vegetables, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes on acres diverted from allotment crops will not be in effect for 1955, according to a recent announcement by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This means, explains ____________________ (local authority), that farmers may use as large an acreage as they wish in 1955 for producing vegetables for sale off the farm, or for producing sweet or white potatoes.

The proposals limiting acreage of these crops originally grew out of the prospect that 1954 crops might add substantially to some serious surplus problems. The prospect of more flexible price supports next year, established by the Agricultural Act of 1954, plus the effects of widespread drought this year have erased these fears, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson explained in announcing the change.

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Preliminary checks have also shown, the Secretary said, that vegetable and potato acreages were not increased in 1954, even though there was no limitation on the use of around 25 million acres diverted from allotment crops.

With relaxation of the regulations requiring cross-compliance and total acreage allotments on basic crops for price support purposes, there is now greater opportunity to grow various other crops and less pressure to plant vegetables and potatoes on diverted acres.

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

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To Extension Editors in Col., Ia., Mass., Minn., Miss., Mo.,
N. Y., N. C., Tenn., Utah., Wis.

New School Milk Program Has Increased Consumption by School Children in 11 States

Early experience with the new Special School Milk Program approved by Congress last August indicates that schoolchildren will drink substantially more milk if the opportunity is offered to them. Figures for October show that, under this program, consumption of milk by schoolchildren in 11 States with over 100 schools participating had increased from 19 percent (in Massachusetts) to 87 percent (in Wisconsin).*

The Special School Milk Program, being carried out through the United States Department of Agriculture, provides for use of up to $50,000,000 annually of Commodity Credit Corporation funds to increase consumption of fluid milk by children in nonprofit schools of high school grade and under. To be eligible for assistance in making milk available to their students, schools must meet only two basic requirements: they must serve fluid whole milk meeting State or local standards for butterfat content and sanitation, and they must agree to operate their food or milk service on a nonprofit basis.

Negotiations for operation of the program have been concluded with all States and the District of Columbia, according to the USDA. Individual schools may participate through arrangements with their State educational authorities. As of November 30, applications from more than 31,000 schools had been approved.

In operating the program, a "base" is established for each school, representing normal consumption of milk in the 1953-54 school year. Reimbursement is made to the school for all milk served in excess of this base.

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Schools previously serving milk may be reimbursed up to 4 cents per half pint for milk served in excess of the "base." Schools serving milk for the first time may be reimbursed up to 3 cents per half pint.

Additional milk may be served at any time of the day, details of the plan being worked out by local school officials. Some schools have increased the size of servings, without increasing the price, of milk served with lunch. Others are offering a second half-pint for an extra cent or 2 cents. Still others are offering milk at recess, or when children arrive in the morning or leave in the afternoon.

Milk is being made available for the first time in many schools where the new program has offered the necessary incentive to overcome local problems of supply.

* Note to Editors: Figures for the 11 States with over 100 schools participating follow:

	No. schools participating	Percent increase
Colorado	223	43
Iowa	266	71
Massachusetts	519	19
Minnesota	196	78
Mississippi	312	65
Missouri	811	80
New York	970	22
North Carolina	316	49
Tennessee	229	52
Utah	184	30
Wisconsin	222	87